هكذا من الأصل



Egypt Will Give Up on Mediation Soon

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Egypt will soon give up on its attempt to mediate an end in the enduring freeze in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process in frustration with "Israeli intransigence," a Palestinian official said Wednesday.

"Egyptian efforts will come to an end soon because Egypt will become convinced that Netanyahu is not serious in his dealings," said Ahmed Abdel Rahman, a close advisor of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

(Contd on Pg. 14)



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Iranian, Russian Officials Discuss Nuclear Cooperation

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The head of the Supreme Government Atomic Supervision Organization of the Russian Federation arrived in Tehran on Tuesday, at the invitation of the Iran Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO).

The first round of talks between the two sides was held on Wednesday, discussing the mutual cooperation agreement between IAEO and the Russian organization. The agreement aims at exercising control and supervision of the design and execution of the Bushehr Atomic Power Plant.

Total Close to Signing Contract With Iran

PARIS — French petroleum giant Total is close to signing a contract with the Iranian government on oil production there, the company's chief executive said in an interview published Wednesday. Total chairman Thierry Desmarest made the remarks to the daily *Les Echos*.

Total and the Royal Dutch/Shell group were the two finalists for the South Pars contract. Desmarest also said Total was working with Iraq to prepare for the day when the United Nations drops its current sanctions against the Baghdad government.

(AP)

Turkey's Yilmaz Vows to Fight Islamism

CILLER HITS BACK AT LEFTIST CHARGES

ANKARA — Turkey's secular Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz on Wednesday pledged to fight Islamism, which he said had been given a boost under former Premier Necmettin Erbakan's Islamist-led government.

"The previous government encouraged and boosted fundamentalism, but my Cabinet will relentlessly fight religious extremism," Yilmaz told a meeting of his conservative Motherland Party.

Yilmaz said he had cancelled last minute orders by Erbakan to appoint several Islamists to senior state posts and to allocate state money to municipalities controlled by the former premier's pro-Islamic Welfare Party.

Erbakan had been planning to hand over the premiership to his conservative coalition ally Tansu Ciller, but President Suleyman Demirel instead asked Yilmaz to form a new government on June 20.

Turkish former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on Wednesday sought the prosecution of a far-left leader for accusing her of acting against the national interest for financial gain, state-run Anatolian

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Ceremonies Commemorating Victims of U.S. Attack on Airliner to Be Held



TEHRAN (July 4, 1988) — Hugging her son's coffin while looking at his picture, the mother of one of the martyrs holds her cheek against it to soothe her bereaved heart. Her son, Amir Lavasani, was one of the 290 civilian passengers, (more than 100 women and children), of Iran Air Flight 655, shot down by the American warship USS Vincennes, as an example of state-sponsored terrorism.

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The ninth commemorative ceremonies of the United States attack on an Iranian civilian airliner is to be held today on the site of the attack on the Persian Gulf.

The Ministry of Road and Transportation which is holding the ceremonies said in a dispatch by IRNA here yesterday that the attack is a blatant example of the United States state-sponsored terrorism and called on all free people across the globe to condemn this kind of barbarism.

The barbarous attack was carried out by the United States ship Vincennes when the airliner was ascending and did not pose any threat to anyone, killing 290 innocent men, women and children nine years hence.

Meanwhile the Managing Director of the Iran Air, Seyed Hussein Shafti in a message on Wednesday said that downing of Iranian airplane by the U.S. Navy in July 1988, is one of the most heinous crimes committed in the history of the world's air industry.

Referring to the martyrdom of some 290 innocent Iranian passengers, he said that the downing of the Iranian airbus was a blatant violation of international laws, and that it indicates the United States' indifference towards the rights of innocent passengers.

Shafti added that in addition to the Iranian nationals, Iran Air Flight 655 had on board some 37 foreign nationals from seven European and Asian countries.

Paying tribute to the captain, the crew and the passengers of the Iranian Airbus, Shafti said that the world would never forget this catastrophe and that it has brought disgrace to the United States forever.

He said that Iran Air Flight 655 was on a normal international flight and fully observed all international technical regulations, adding that in spite of clear terms of the Chicago treaty and other international regulations, the plane was shot down by the U.S. ship Vincennes.

Israelis Kill Palestinian During Protests in Gaza

GAZA STRIP, West Bank — Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian youth with a bullet to the heart as clashes erupted with protestors around Jewish settlements in Gaza and in Al-Khalil on Wednesday.

Maher Abdel Menem Assar, 18, was shot by soldiers at a demonstration against a land grab by Jewish settlers outside the Gush Katif bloc of settlements near the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Deir al-Balah, witnesses said.

He was taken to Shifa hospital in Gaza City with a wound in the heart from a live bullet and died soon after arrival, hospital sources said.

nearby Israeli soldiers, who responded with tear gas and rubber-coated bullets, witnesses said.

Two Palestinian protestors were injured in clashes with Israeli soldiers here Wednesday as the army sent in reinforcements to face a possible escalation of violence in the flashpoint West Bank town.

Several dozen Palestinian youths hurled stones and petrol bombs at Israeli soldiers, who responded with rubber bullets, on a downtown street which has been the scene of melees for the past three weeks, witnesses said.

Two protestors were lightly in- hurt by rubber bullets, most lightly, in similar troubles on Tuesday.

The Israeli Army sent reinforcements into the city after a pipebomb thrown by protestors wounded two soldiers on Tuesday in the most serious injuries suffered by the army so far in the clashes, military sources said.

Overnight, the army built a four-meter-high (yard) cement wall to seal off the alley where the two soldiers were hit, a small route flanking the main road where the clashes have primarily taken place.

So far, over 200 Palestinians have been injured by rubber bul-



Assar had been among some 100 Palestinians who gathered outside Gush Katif to protest when, in a bid to expand their settlement, Settlers began bulldozing in the morning a piece of land claimed by Palestinians.

The protestors threw stones at jured by rubber-coated bullets in the latest day of clashes, which came as Palestinians in the city held a strike to protest an anti-Islamic poster distributed by a Jewish extremist which has heightened tensions in the city.

Twenty-eight Palestinians were lets, most lightly, since clashes began in mid-June in protest against the enduring freeze in the peace process.

Tensions were further heightened by an anti-Islamic poster which was plastered on Arab shops over the weekend. (AFP)

President Receives Ukrainian, Bruneian Ambassadors

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The newly-designated Ukrainian ambassador and the outgoing Bruneian ambassador to Tehran, in separate meetings on Wednesday, called on President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. In his meeting with the president, the new Ukrainian ambassador, Vladimir Butyaga, submitted a copy of his credentials to President Rafsanjani.

Calling Iran-Ukraine bilateral relations and the two countries' growing cooperation "constructive," the Ukrainian diplomat expressed his country's willingness to upgrade relations with Middle Eastern countries, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to the importance of bilateral and trilateral cooperations among Ukraine, Iran and Turkmenistan, Butyaga said that expansion of such cooperations would further consolidate friendship among regional states.

He also underlined the necessity to strengthen the Iran-Ukraine Joint Economic Commission, as well as the two countries' cooperation in the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), and other international organizations as a major factor in the expansion of regional and international cooperations.

The Ukrainian ambassador expressed his government's readiness to strengthen mutual cooperation in the field of oil, gas and industry with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

For his part, President Rafsanjani welcomed the expansion of Tehran-Kiev cooperation, especially in economics, trade and technical areas, expressing Iran's readiness to enhance overall relations with Ukraine.

The president described as a valuable and major step the setting up of an oil and gas pipeline to eastern Europe through Ukrainian soil.

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In the Name of God

And they say: When will this threat come about, if you are truthful?

(HOLY QORAN) (10:48)

OPINION

Last Divine Prophet: Inspired With Most Perfect Revelations

Tomorrow, the 28th of Safar (the second month in the lunar calendar), is the demise anniversary of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S). This sad event took place in 633 A.D. (11 A.H.), due to which the most prominent character in world history, and the noblest creation of Almighty God, left the material world for his heavenly abode at the age of 63.

The Holy Prophet of Islam, Mohammad-ibn Abdullah (S), was a descendant of Prophet Abraham (AS) and a number of other divine prophets. In fact, none of his noble ancestors ever worshipped any idols and were all worshippers of Almighty God. He himself was appointed by Almighty God as the last divine prophet, and the revelations he received were the most perfect divine instructions and guidelines for humanity.

In fact, the divine prophets before Mohammad (S), who called on the people to worship only one God and believe in the Resurrection, all gave their following generations the glad tidings of the appearance of the Prophet of Islam, Mohammad (S), urging their followers to convert to Islam upon his appearance.

The Holy Qoran, which was the great miracle of the Prophet (S), includes only the revelations inspired by Almighty God, not the words of the Prophet (S) himself, or those of the disciples of the Prophet (S). The Almighty God has stressed in the Holy Qoran that He has revealed the Holy Book and He will keep it from distortion or alteration forever.

As the Islamic Constitution, the Holy Book offers guidelines, showing man the right path for every aspect of life. The Prophet Mohammad (S) and his successors, the twelve Imams of His Infallible Household (AS), explained to Muslims those verses of the Holy Qoran needing exposition and exegesis.

Thus, Islam, which was the fruit of 23 years of endeavors and sacrifices of the Holy Prophet (S), to save humanity from deviation and corruption, was directly protected by his 12 successors during a period of 250 years.

In general, during the process of attaining spiritual and intellectual perfection, man was instructed by the divine prophets, the first of whom was the Prophet Adam (AS). Under such instruction, the potential of man was gradually realized, to the extent that he was prepared for the last divine prophet, Mohammad (S), who brought humanity the most perfect divine guidelines to ensure their prosperity and salvation in this world and in the Hereafter.

As a matter of fact, all teachers of humanity, the divine prophets, pursued similar objectives: They tried to cleanse man of sins and moral blemishes, show him the right path, make him realize that the world has an Omniscient and Omnipotent Creator, and that He has chosen man from among His Creation to be His Viceroy on earth.

They also told man that when someone dies, he begins another life in the Hereafter, where he will be rewarded for his righteous deeds, and punished for his evil deeds in this world.

The Holy Prophet of Islam (S), like prophets before him, called on the people to love one another, rather than treat each other with cruelty and oppression. He also told them to abstain from lying, stealing, committing fornication and adultery, drinking alcohol and betraying others' trust. The Prophet (S) told the people to say their prayers and worship only the Almighty God, give the needy a share of their wealth, help the oppressed, and not be oblivious to their life in the Hereafter.

Mohammad (S) told his followers that, although Islam would prevail, as man would realize that Islam is the only genuine path to salvation, prosperity and spiritual perfection, there are some reactionary forces in society that are opposed to such enlightenment, since their interests are promoted by the people's ignorance.

Therefore, the Prophet (S) underscored that his followers should first try to persuade those reactionary forces to give up their evil intentions and submit to divine guidelines. If they refused to do so, Muslims should use force against them, preventing them from blocking the path to salvation, so that man would be free to worship Almighty God.

We condole with Muslims and freedom-lovers throughout the world on the demise anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad (S), who raised the banner of monotheism and justice, and championed the cause of the oppressed and the underprivileged.

Yemeni Deputy Foreign Minister Confers With Velayati

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati received the visiting Yemeni Deputy Foreign Minister in Political Affairs, Ghalib Ali Jamil here Wednesday.

In the meeting, Velayati condemned the recent move of the Zionists to expand housing complexes in Palestinian land and their insult to the Islamic sanctities. "Zionists' measure was a blow to the so-called peace process and made clear the real nature of the process.

The foreign minister called Iran-Yemen relations strong, deep-rooted and based on religious, cultural and political commonalties, stressing that keeping contact and exchange of delegations between the two countries will help furhter explore ways to boost bilateral relations.

Terming the recent parliamentary elections in Yemen important, Velayati called for holding of the third session of Iran-Yemen Joint Economic Commission in the near future.

He also invited his Yemeni counterpart to pay an official visit to Tehran.

The Yemeni official congratulated holding of the 7th presidential elections in Iran, calling the massive participation of people in the elections a sign of advanced democracy in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to the strategic role of the Islamic Republic in the region, he called for promotion of bilateral ties in political, economic and cultural fields.

Terming the recent visit of Velayati to the region constructive and fruitful, he stated that exchange of visits between the two countries' diplomats would help promote peace and solidarity between the two counties and among the regional states.

Khatami Thanks World Armenian Archbishop for Message

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — President-elect Mohammad Khatami-in a reply message to the world Armenian Archbishop Gargin I, thanked him for his message congratulating Khatami's election as the fifth president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The president-elect in his message expressed hope that in light of the heavenly teachings of the divine religions and by making collective efforts throughout the world, the ground would be further prepared for the proximity of the followers of divine religions.

President: Regional States Should Preserve Security of Persian Gulf

Tehran Times Service



TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani here Wednesday emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to preservation of the security and stability of the Persian Gulf, adding that it is the duty of all regional countries to strengthen the security of the region.

The president made the remarks in a meeting with the ambassadors of Iran to the Persian Gulf Littoral States. He said that the military presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf is a serious threat to the security, peace and stability of the entire region.

The president further said that upgrading multi-faceted cooperation with the southern Persian Gulf states is one of the main priorities in Iran's foreign policy.

Islamic Consultative Assembly Condemns Zionists Sacrilege

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Islamic Consultative Assembly in a communique issued here yesterday condemned the Zionists sacrilege against Muslim sanctities and the Holy Prophet of Islam.

The full text of the communique is as follows:

The Muslim People of Iran:

The blatant action of the Zionists in violating Islamic sanctities which comes following the decision of the United States Congress and government in recognizing Beit-ul-Moqaddas as the capital of the Zionist regime means that this usurper regime has passed the boundaries of military and political occupation and has embarked on violating the religious beliefs of the Palestinians and Muslims in a systematic way.

If in days past, Muslims countries and world Muslims had shown the proper reaction in the political, economic, and military arenas, the Zionist enemy would not have had the courage to begin this new round of suicidal attacks.

The Majlis leadership, while condemning in the strongest terms this cowardly attack, asks Muslims throughout the world to show proper and practical response to this sacrilegious attack of the Zionists upon the Holy Prophet of Islam and rest assured that the only way to rid the lands of Palestine from the occupying Zionists is to resist their attacks in every way possible and know that the Almighty God is on their side.

In this respect we ask the heroic people of Palestine and heros of Intifadeh to stand together and know that the sensitive and historical chapter of ridding Palestine of the usurper regime of Palestine has arrived, and resisting the occupier Zionist regime is the only way of freeing Palestine.

They can also rest assured that the Muslims of the world will in every way, be it moral or material, will help them in this sacred endeavor.

We also ask the great people of Iran to participate in special ceremonies to condemn these stupid attacks of the Zionists.

Azeri Ambassador Summoned to Foreign Ministry

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry Wednesday summoned Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Tehran, Aliyar Safarali, and extended a note of protest to him.

In the meeting with the Azeri ambassador, the director general of Foreign Ministry's Department for Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Affairs criticized the unfavorable condition of Iranian nationals imprisoned in Azerbaijan.

The Iranian official called for improvement of status of Azerbaijans' prisons according to the international conventions.

The Azeri diplomat told unsatisfactory conditions in his country's prisons is due to critical economic situation and said he would convey Iran's protest to his country's authorities.

Four Dead in Bridge Collapse on Tehran-Varamin Route

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The collapse of the Taghiabad Bridge on the Qarchak-e Varamin route left four dead and five injured Tuesday night.

An official of the Fire Brigade and Safety Services told IRNA that as a result of the incident several spans of the bridge collapsed. One Paykan pick-up and an automobile traveling on Shahr-e Rei-Varamin route were buried in the rubble.

The reasons for the collapse of the bridge has not yet been determined.

Three relief and rescue teams from the fire brigade rushed to the scene of the accident as soon as it happened and operations to clear the rubble continued until after midnight.

Meanwhile, Mayor of the District 20 of Tehran Dawoud Tajeran announced that experts are conducting investigations into the reasons for the collapse of the bridge and the results of the investigations will be soon made public.

He added that the bridge had been constructed by a contractor and a consultant engineer in the private sector and the responsibility for its collapse lies primarily with the consultant engineer and secondly with the contractor.

He placed the possibility of damage to the bridge on the excavation work and laying the foundation of the linking roads.

The Municipality has lodged a court complaint against the consultant engineer and the contractor, concluded Tajeran.

RCSI Official Elaborates On Relief Aid Distributed in Ardebil

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The managing director of the Office of the Red Crescent Society of Iran in Ardebil, Ali Sahebzamani, said on Wednesday that some 13,972 tents, 178,000 blankets, 34,000 heaters, 43,349 pieces of floor coverings and 3.560 million liters of fuel have so far been distributed among the victims of the February 28 quake which hit Ardebil Province.

He added that 1,833 tons of bread, dates, tea, sugar, vegetable oil, rice, cereals, as well as a large amount of clothings, shoes, kitchen utensils, and detergents were among other relief aid distributed in the quake-stricken areas, IRNA reported.

An earthquake measuring 5.5 degrees on the Richter scale hit this northwestern province on February 28, claiming the lives of more than 950 persons and injuring some 2,600 others.

Some 11,200 houses were destroyed in the quake. The tremor also inflicted damages on 125 villages with the population of over 13,000 families.

Iranian Ambassador Calls On Lithuanian PM

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iran's Accredited Ambassador to Lithuania Mohammad Taheri met on Tuesday with Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnoras who called for expansion of relations with Iran.

In view of growing consumption of energy in the Baltic region Iran's investment in this section would be beneficial for both countries, said the prime minister.

Proposing exchange of delegations between the two countries, he said that Lithuania is to nominate its accredited ambassador to Tehran soon.

Taheri who is also serving as Iran's ambassador to Poland expressed his country's readiness for any kind of cooperation and assistance to Lithuania in the areas of economy, commerce, agriculture, oil, gas and transportation.

Pointing to the inauguration of Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tajan railway track which is serving as a bridge between Eastern Asia and Western Europe, he expressed hope that Lithuania would be able to communicate with the Central Asian countries and East Asia via the rail track.

TEHRAN — Hungarian Ambassador to Tehran Istvan Tolli met here Tuesday with Head of Iran-Hungary Parliamentary Friendship Group Ahmad Qazaee who is also member of the Foreign Policy Commission of Majlis.

هکذا من الأصل

Traces of 6th Millennium Copper Know-How Discovered in Rey



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Excavations in Cheshmeh Ali, a district of the city of Rey, has led to the discovery of ancient relics dating 8,000 years ago.

Among the objects discovered in the district was a copper relic traceable to the 6th millennium.

The head of the excavation team, Amir Sarrafi, who has been commissioned by the Cultural Heritage Organization to explore a hill in the vicinity of Cheshmeh Ali, told reporters that the hil played a role in shaping ancient Iranian history.

He added that some time ago foreign delegations had also conducted investigations in the region.

Investigations in the past three weeks have unearthed for Sarrafi and his team three layers of soil traceable to three different bygone eras, with indications the first layer dates back 3500 years B.C., the second layer 5500 years B.C., and the third layer 6000 years B.C.

Dr. Sarrafi added that red-stained porcelain objects are among the most common things discovered in the region, the most important piece of which is a copper stone found inside a special vessel. The discovery is said to indicate that the residents of the region in the 6th millennium B.C. had already developed the technology of excavation, melting and making of copper objects.

Asked to explain how the objects found were dated, Sarrafi said that by a comparison of the form and composition of the objects they discovered with other ancient relics preserved in Iran and other countries it was possible for them to guess the age.

An interesting discovery made by the excavation team which is still busy in their work is a tomb containing skeletal remains of a man.

Sarrafi said the method of burial of the man whose skeleton they unearthed indicates that people during that period in history held some religious beliefs.

"A vessel over the head of the skeleton shows that they believed in life after life," Sarrafi said.

He added that their excavations have also led to findings that the dead during that time were buried much like an embryo in a mother's womb, with the legs folded into the abdomen, perhaps to give a man's departure from this world the same appearance as that when he/she comes into this world.

The excavation team will be concluding their work by the end of next week. The head of the team said that he expects to discover more ancient and more amazing objects.

Insult to Prophet Mohammad (SAW) Unscathed

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Secretariat of the Assembly of Experts released a statement condemning the Zionists' insult to the Holy Prophet of Islam, Mohammad (peace be upon him and his progeny).

Part of the statement reads that by this shameful act, the barbaric Zionists indicated that they think about of enmity with Islam.

The statement added that the secretariat of the Assembly of Experts strongly condemns this heinous act and announces that the world of Islam should rise unanimously to weed out this cancerous tumor, Israel, and punish those responsible for the insult.

Similar statements were released by the Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO), the IPO's Coordination Council and the Islamic Culture and Relations Organizations in condemnation of the desecration of the holy prophet of Islam by the Zionists.

"What has caused a handful of Zionists to dare to affront Islamic sanctities in the face of one billion Muslims?", asked the IPO's statement.

The statement added that Islamic thought today is finding its way into the Western world through love and not arm- a revolution that has frightened the enemies to mar the image of Islam.

The statement of the IPO's Coordination Council said the Muslim people of Iran will condemn the recent amoral act of the Zionists at the congregational Friday prayer's politico-religious ceremonies.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) reads that insult to the sanctities of Islam and other Revealed religions is the old practice of the Zionist criminals who abide by no international, moral and human principle.

The ICRO's statement called on the true believers of Islam and other Revealed religions and liberal minded people of the world to prevent such insolent acts of the Zionists.

Ancient Coin Museum to Be Opened Soon

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The first ancient coins museum will be inaugurated by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on July 8.

The museum has been set up by the Museums General Department under the supervision of the Mustazafan-Janbazan Foundation.

Present at the inaugural ceremony will be Vice-President Hasan Habibi and the Head of Mustazafan-Janbazan Foundation Mohsen Refighdoost.

Rls.660bn Allocated to Creating Jobs in Handicraft Industry

KHORRAMABAD, LORESTAN — The chief of national handicrafts organization said that Rls.660 billion has been allocated this year to creating employment opportunities in the handicraft industry.

Hossein Arbary said on Wednesday in Khorramabad that Rls 20,700 million has been allocated to development of handicraft training in various parts of the country.

Speaking to IRNA, he added that Rls.300 million has been allotted to rejuvenation of some of the branches of handicraft industry this year. (IRNA)

Over 370 kg of Drugs Confiscated in Fars

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Law Enforcement Forces of Fars Province announced that some 373 kg of narcotics were seized in the southern province of Iran during the past days.

According to IRNA, the illicit drugs include 351 kg of opium, 22.5 kg of hashish and 580 gr of heroin. 15 vehicles were also confiscated in the operations.

Several Indo-Iranian Joint Ventures on Cards

NEW DELHI — In keeping with their common desire to expand economic cooperation between them, India and Iran are exploring the possibility of setting up joint ventures in various fields, according to the Commerce Ministry of India.

The additional secretary in the ministry, Rajiv Arora, today told IRNA that India and Iran had recently identified textiles, electronics, drugs, pharmaceuticals and software as the areas for prospective joint ventures.

This was worked out during the visit of an Iranian Commerce Ministry delegation to India last month, informed Arora.

Indian companies hold 60 percent of the equity and the Qeshm Free Area (QFA) holds the remaining 40 percent in the $400 million Indo-Iran fertiliser project with an annual capacity of producing 7.26 Lakh metric tonnes of urea.

The memorandum of understanding (MOU) with effect to the setting up of the joint venture was signed on March 4, 1994 in Tehran.

Under the supplementary MOU signed in New Delhi on November 26, 1996, India agreed to import 60 percent of the produce from the joint venture.

(IRNA)

WEATHER

The Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 37°C, Min. temp. 26°C

Clear to partly cloudy

Warmest Point:
Ahwaz 45°C

Coldest Point:
Saqez 8°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	43	Vienna	25
Istanbul	—	Moscow	26
Rome	—	Madrid	19
Athens	34	Abu Dhabi	37
London	18	Karachi	33
Paris	—	New Delhi	37
Frankfurt	23	Kuwait	—

Workers Appreciate President's Efforts to Improve Industry

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Industrial workers here Tuesday presented a statue to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in recognition of his efforts for promoting national industries, IRNA reported.

In his address to industrial workers on the occasion President Rafsanjani appreciated their feelings and said in part:

"The success of the construction period in the area of industries is evidence that we have a bright future ahead. The industrial outlook for Iran in another 24 years will be much brighter than it is today.

"One important idea is to consider our industries as constituting 80 percent of our total exports. We have considered our industries with ambitious goals and we look forward to attaining those goals with the committed efforts of our industrial workers.

"Today, fifty percent of our national exports are industrial commodities, and 4,700 industrial items of Iran have been standardized. The encouraging growth in the industrial sector and awarding of ISO-9000 to our industries is due to the efforts of our industrial executives, engineers, and industrial workers..

"As I assumed the function of the head of the state after the ceasefire, the industrial sector was stagnant despite its potential. It needed a serious impetus. What we then had was dependent industries. It badly needed structural improvements..

"With the cooperation of our industrial workers and with the cooperation of our good colleagues with the administration during the first national development plan we offered planning for our industrial development which we did while progress was also achieved in the agriculture sector. The national industrial planning went ahead very well."

During the same ceremony, Industries Minister Mohammadreza Nematzadeh offered a report on the status of national industries.

The industries minister said that as a result of government investment on industries, direct employment opportunites for 250,000 persons has been created. He added the same investments also result in the indirect employment of a larger group that altogether totals 1.5 million.

Nematzadeh said the added value in the area of industries which previously had a yearly fall of eight per cent reached a growth rate of 12 percent during the first national development plan, and eight percent in the last year.

The industries minister predicted that industrial exports would increase from the present 10 percent to 70 per cent in the future with a total value of $100 billion which, he said, would be feasible with proper planning.

In the same ceremony President Akbar Hahshemi was also awarded a plaque in appreciation of his services to the industrial sector as president.

Rls. 1,470bn to Be Spent on Deprived Areas

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Head of the Department for Deprived Area said, "A Rls.-1,470-billion credit will be devoted to development and creating employment opportunities in the deprived areas of the country."

Jalil Besharati added on Wednesday in Aligudarz of the total, Rls.750 billion is devoted to infrastructure, and Rls.720 billion is allocated to industrial, intermediate and agricultural projects in the deprived villages", IRNA reported.

He also said that Rls.22,400 million is allocated for 150 infrastructure projects, and since the beginning of the first devlopment plan Rls.127 billion has been spent in the deprived areas of Lorestan.

Iran's Quake-Prone Regions to Be Covered by Satellite System

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Deputy Interior Minister in Charge of Coordinating Development Affairs, Rasoul Zargar announced Tuesday that the U.N. will assist Iran to equip the quake-prone regions with satellite communications network.

He added that a credit of $500,000 in the form of assistance from international organizations has been placed at the disposal of Iran for implementing the project, an IRNA dispatch said.

According to the agreement signed between the two sides, the project is to be implemented in phases in the disaster prone regions of Iran within a three-month period, he pointed out.

Referring to the experience and extensive measures taken by Iran in relief and rescue operations, housing and reconstruction in regions ravaged by quakes and other disasters, Zargar said that within the framework of this agreement and at the request of U.N. educative films will be produced on the measures taken by Iran in the field of sending relief to and reconstructing of quake-hit regions.

These films will be placed at the disposal of other countries to serve as a model and experience.

6th Persian Carpet Exhibit in August

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The sixth grand exhibition of Persian carpets will be inaugurated at the permanent site of fairs here on August 23, said the Farsi-language daily *Iran* Wednesday quoting Export Promotion Center of Iran (EPCI).

Thousands of hand-made carpets will be put at display in 18 halls at the one-week exhibition which will be held on a 55,000 sq. meter area.

Simultaneous with the exhibition, the 6th International Conference on Persian Carpets will be held at the EPCI center on August 26.

Experts on Persian carpets from Iran and the world will attend the 2-day conference to exchange views and present their latest research findings.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Wednesday, June 2, 1997.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,316	1,324	2,259	2,271
Austria	schilling	142	143	244	246
Belgium	(100) francs	4,850	4,878	8,326	8,367
Canada	dollar	1,764	1,272	2,170	2,181
Denmark	krone	262	265	451	454
France	franc	297	299	510	513
Germany	mark	1001	1007	1,719	1,727
Holland	guilder	890	995	1,528	1,535
Italy	(100) liras	103	104	177	178
Japan	(100) yen	1,523	1,532	2,614	2,627
Sweden	krone	225	227	388	390
UAE	dirham	467	469	818	820
UK	pound	2,907	2,924	4,991	5,016
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015

"Economy Without Reliance on Oil Revenues" Outlined

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The details and objectives of a plan on "economy without reliance on oil revenues" was announced by the Plan and Budget Organiztion here Tuesday.

Deputy head of the Plan and Budget Organization Abbas Arabmazar said that the plan expected to be implemented in two decades has been drawn by using the economic models and data covering the years from 1966 to 1996, an IRNA dispatch said.

The growth rate of the Gross National Product (GNP) has been predicted to stand at an average of seven percent annually in the next 20 years, he said adding, the predictions have been 6.7 percent for the first decade (until the year 2006) and 7.4 percent for the second decade (2016).

The unemployment rate has been forecast to be at about 5.2 percent in the year 2016 and the real increase in prices of oil products at seven percent.

According to Arabmazar, the proportion of the current expenses of the government to the gross domestic product (GDP) has been predicted to be 14 percent and that of taxes to GDP 11.3 percent for the year 2006.

In the budget section, the tax incomes are estimated to cover 90 percent of the current expenses in 2006. The figure is to climb to cover 120 percent of the current expenses with part of it being allocated to development expenses.

On the value added in various economic sections, he said in the first decade the growth of the value added to agricultural sector is predicted to be five percent, industries eight percent, services 6.3 percent and oil and gas eight percent.

The figures are to hit the target of 5.1 percent, 10.2 percent, 7.4 percent and 5.8 percent respectively in the second decade.

According to predictions, the foreign exchange earnings from exports will be $25 billion in 2006 and $62 billion in 2016.

$41 billion of this amount will be obtained from export of petrochemical, mineral, industrial and traditional products, $14 billion from oil and its products and $seven billion from agricultural products.

41 Percent Growth in Previous Year

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Head of Central Insurance and Chief of the High Council of Insurance in Iran, Abdol Nasser Hemmati announced that the volume of insurance premium totalled over Rls. 1,245 billion in 1375 (ended March 21, 1997), showing an increase of 41 percent compared to the same period the previous year.

He said the damages paid in the same period amounted to over Rls. 751 billion, which shows a 72 percent increase over the same period the preceding year, IRNA reported.

Referring to the increases in premium for the third-party insurance by 52 percent and damages paid out by 107 percent, he said that the total damages paid out for the two branches namely third-party and automobile body insurance forms an equivalent of 62 percent of total damages paid in the market.

He said that in the previous year, the automobile insurance premium comprising the two branches: third party and body formed 35.33 percent of the total insurance premium in the market. The shares for each branch (third-party and automobile body) from the total market premium were 23.15 and 12.18 percent respectively.

He announced the relative damages paid to the insurance policies issued before deducting premium for future years and without considering the outstanding damages at 59 percent. The relative damages in the previous year was 50 percent while the damages coefficient was 70.6 percent.

The coefficient of damages in 1375 (ended March 21, 1997) shows an increase over the previous year, the exact rate of which will be determined after receiving and calculating the outstanding damages upto the end of 1375.

Non-Oil Exports Up by 36 Percent in 2 Months

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Some 1.256 million tons of non-oil goods worth Rls.877,500 million ($507.2 million) were exported during the first two months of the current Iranian year (started March 21).

According to the Farsi-language daily *Iran* published Wednesday, the exports showed an increase of 29.5 percent in weight and 35.7 in value compared to the same period last year, quoting the customs department.

Hand-woven carpets comprised 14.8 percent of the total exports, pistachio 11.22 percent and steel and iron products 8.21 percent, the paper said.

Over this period, 2,961 tons of hand-woven carpets worth Rls. 131,700 million were exported, up by 102.4 percent in weight and 56.9 percent in value compared to the same period last year.

Agricutlural products worth Rls.200,100 million were exported over this period, comprising 22.5 percent of the total exports.

Major Trading Powers Fail to Agree Over Import Curbs

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - After hours of intensive talks in the World Trade Organization (WTO) balance-of-payment (BOP) committee in Geneva on Tuesday, officials from Delhi and trade diplomats from the United States, the European Union, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other countries failed to agree on BOP import curbs operated by Delhi, report Indian news agencies, as quoted by IRNA.

India, which has operated restrictions on the import of thousands of foreign products for some 40 years on grounds of BOP difficulties, had offered to phase them out over a period of seven years.

But the major powers, pointing to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) report saying India no longer faced acute BOP problems.

Budget for Imam Reza (AS) Shrine Rls.821bn

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The budget for the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) for the current year 1376 (ending March 21, 1998) has been placed at Rls. 821 billion, an increase of 51 percent compared to the previous year 1375 which ended March 21, 1997.

Speaking to reporters Tuesday, the custodian in charge of the Holy Shrine Ali Karimi announced that 80 percent of the amount is to be spent on the development sector and in the investment of over 50 companies and institutes in the sub-division of the holy shrine complex. Current expenditure is to make up about 20 percent of the budget, IRNA reported.

He added that Rls.12.7 billion of the amount has been alloted for cultural and social services of the pilgrims as well as for looking after the deprived.

So far Rls.250 billion has been spent on the project to develop the precincts of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza (AS) and this year too Rls.160 billion has been allocated for the upkeeping of the holy shrine, concluded Karimi.

UNIDO Unveils Business Plan on Its Future Functions

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The governing body of the U.N. agency responsible for promoting industrial development has adopted a business plan on the future role and functions of the agency.

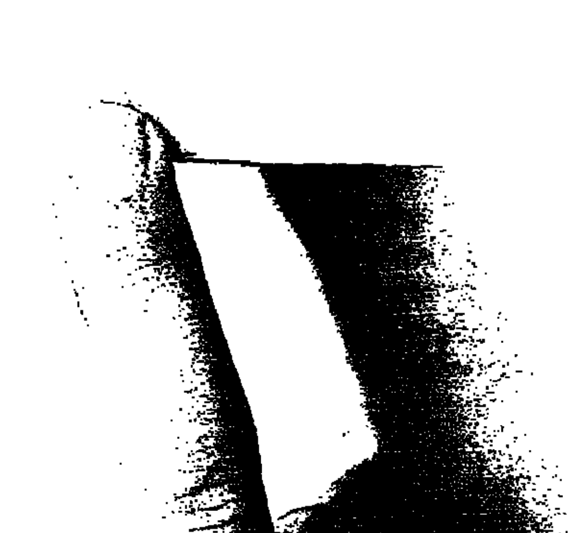
The U.N. Information Center said in a press release yesterday that the first part of the business plan was adopted by the 53-member board of the U.N. Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Vienna.

The plan focuses on the promotion of investment and technology, industrial policy advice, institutional capacity building as well as quality, standardization and metrology.

"The second area, among other things, involves the promotion of environmentally sustainable industrial development strategies, transfer of environmental technologies, and development of norms and standards relating to environmental strategies and technologies," it said.

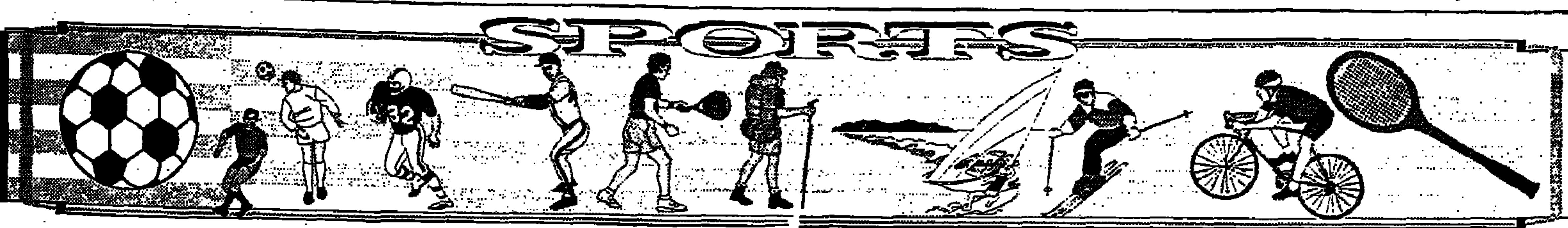
The agency also said that the new priorities would be reflected in a new organizational structure.

According to the UNIDO, the new plan will enable it to continue its work as a specialized entity within the U.N. system and to provide industrial services to developing countries and transition economies.





TEHRAN TIMES



Riosand Korda Meet Becker And Sampras

WIMBLEDON, england — It's not in the script that Petr Korda or Marcelo Rios should be contenders for the Wimbledon final, even though both lefthanders are seeded.

Korda, who has managed to stay in top flight tennis despite injury after injury, runs into top-seeded Pete Sampras for a place in the quarterfinals tuesday. Rios, the colorful chilean with hardly any grass-court experience, faces another three-time titlist, Boris Becker.

Ninth-seeded Rios doesn't give himself much chance against "boom boom" Becker on the German's favorite surface, but Korda, seeded 16, is warning Sampras to take him seriously.

"I don't think he likes me as an opponent. I'm different from other lefthanders," said the 29-year-old Czech, who is making his third appearance in the last 16 of Wimbledon but has never been further.

"If he wants to beat me, he's going to have to play really well because I'm not going to give up. I'm going to fight the best I can and we will see the result."

Korda, who needed surgery to repair a groin injury last year, suffered back problems towards the end of his five-set victory over Alex O'Brien. Because of the persistent rain delays that plagued the first week of Wimbledon, he won't have much chance to rest before he meets three-time champ Sampras Tuesday.

Rios, who says grass should only be for cows, had made it to round four with the loss of two sets, both tie-breaks.

But he still doesn't like the surface.

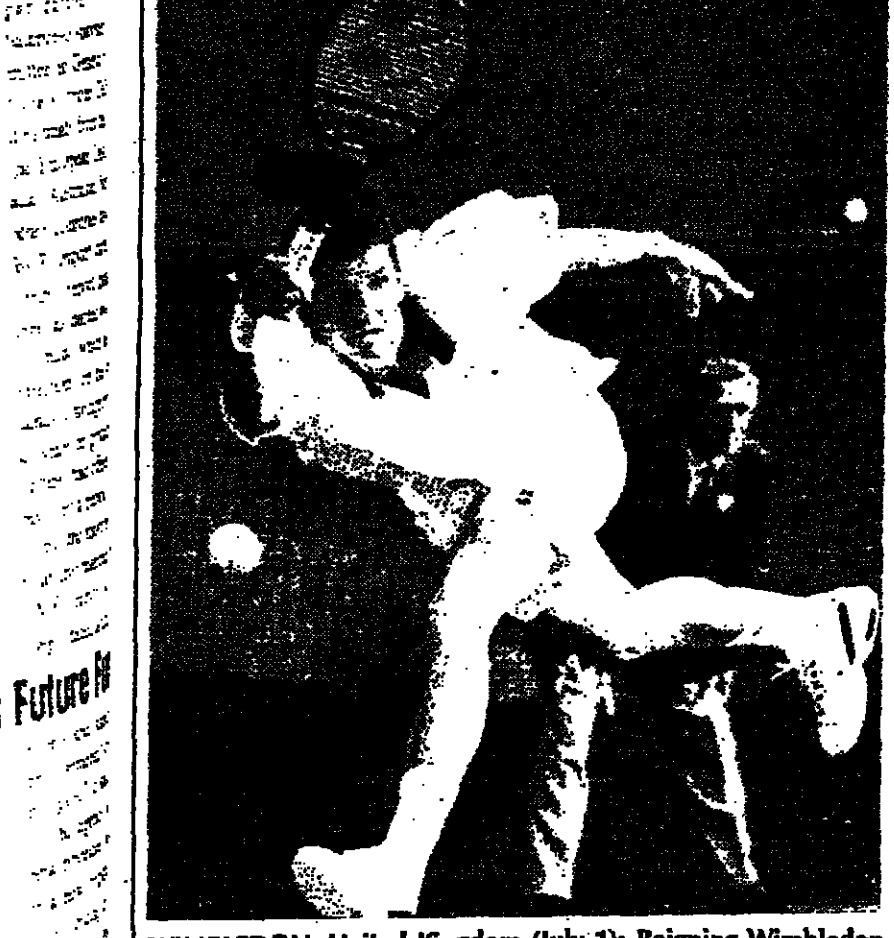
"It is not a surface on which to play tennis," said the talented 21-year-old South American, the first Chilean to rank in the top 10. "I think that grass is not really the surface to show your shots or really play points."

After beating John Van Lottum, 7-6 (7-4), 6-3, 6-7 (7-5), 6-4, he now faces an eighth-seeded Becker who is striving to gain his first Wimbledon title since 1989 and, like Sampras, has lost only one service game in straight-set victories over three opponents. "I know (Becker's) favorite surface is grass but I guess I have the same chance as we're both in the fourth round," Rios said. "Maybe he has played a lot more matches than me on grass but I think it's the fourth round and anything can happen."

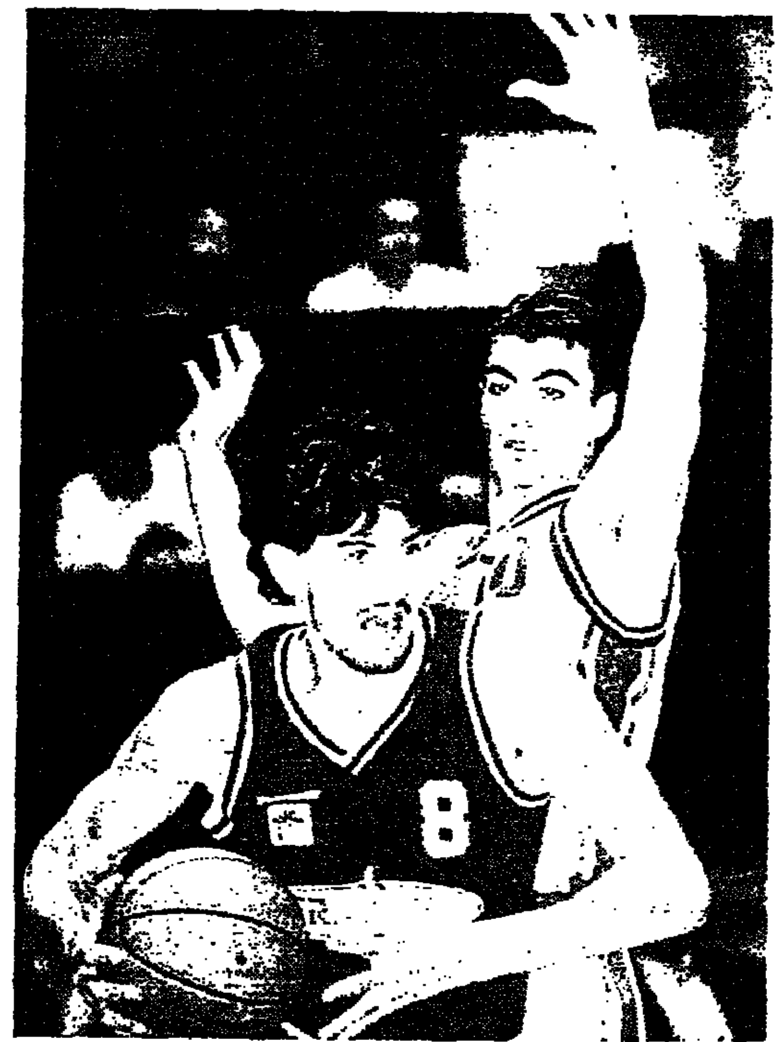
Largely because of the rain delays, Rios has had very little preparation on grass.

"I stayed in the room and watched a lot of movies," Rios said. "You only have half an hour a day playing indors (on hard courts), but I didn't have that much practice.

"Maybe the less you practice, the better you play." (AP)



WIMBLEDON, United Kingdom (July 1): Reigning Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek rushes to return a ball from Briton Tim Henman at the Wimbledon Championships. (AFP PHOTO)



GERONA, Spain (July 1): Frenchman Yann Bonato outplays the defense of Turkey's Ibrahim Kutluay (R) in men's European basketball Championship match. (AFP PHOTO)

Soccer Disaster to Undergo Fresh Investigation

LONDON — New evidence on the 1989 Hillsborough disaster will be examined by a judge to determine whether a fresh public inquiry will be required, Home Secretary Jack Straw told lawmakers in a statement Monday.

The new investigation comes in the wake of heavy campaigning from the relatives of the 96 Liverpool fans who were crushed to death after being herded into an already crowded and fenced-in enclosure during the FA Cup semifinal against Nottingham Forest.

The families were scathing of the way police handled the situation, accusing them of manslaughter. The original inquest jury returned verdicts that the deaths were accidental.

"We owe it to everyone touched by the tragedy, but above all to the families of those who died, to get to the bottom of this matter once and for all," straw's said in a statement.

The new video and medical evidence includes a videotape taken from a closed circuit television camera positioned at the Leppings Lane end stand where the crush occurred.

South Yorkshire police told the original inquiry they were unaware of the build-up of fans because the camera was not working.

But the tape, discovered in March this year, is believed to be sufficiently clear for the faces of individual fans to be identified.

Straw said he was determined to do everything possible to ensure every matter of significance was investigated.

"I hope that this examination will enable us to establish conclusively whether or not material evidence about the causes of the Hillsborough disaster has been overlooked."

Straw added that the suffering of the victims' relatives had been exacerbated by their belief that there are unresolved issues which should be investigated further". (AP)

Guscott Withdraws From England's Tour of Australia

LONDON — Jeremy Guscott, who kicked the match-winning drop goal for the British Lions to seal an historic 2-0 series win against South Africa, has withdrawn from the England touring squad for the one-off test against Australia on July 12.

Guscott contacted England's Rugby Football Union on Tuesday citing family reasons for his withdrawal, which will force the fourth change to the 27-man squad which was announced last week.

The exciting center from Bath wants to return home to see his new-born daughter and his place has been filled by Northampton's Matt Allen.

Guscott is the only one of England's 20 Lions' representatives that will not go directly from South Africa to Australia after the third and final test against the Springboks this Saturday.

Guscott, who has 45 England Caps and is presently on his third Lions tour, fell out of favor with the English selectors last winter, even though he was playing some of the most exciting rugby of his illustrious and entertaining career. (AP)

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

Skills of Kung Fu

By Master Ja'far Ghaempour Jahangir

(Part 46)

Controlling Breath and Mind



In previous parts it was explained that the power of tendon is in fact the muscular pressure of abdomen. The art of Kung Fu instructs the students to have Zen practices during Kung Fu exercises. As I said earlier, breath regulation in Zen will strengthen mind concentration and is highly valuable. Further, for breath exercises, one must sit for a long time while concentrating on Zen and reviewing the techniques. Doing so is a point in my training classes. Before beginning the training, the students sit in Zen state and repeat the rules of the class. As I said before, some common rules of body and mind promotion are common between Kung Fu and som religions and philosophies. Confucianism is the sole school that has not given any special rules for physical and mental education. It is true that confucianism has enumerated archery as one of the six arts but does not propose any special method for physical education. Military warriors of Japan were following Zen principles of physical and mental education but were followers of confucianism in behavior, loyalty to superiors, and rules of etiquette. In other words, Zen was their leader in physical education and rules of combat but in social issues and relations they were governed by confucianistic teachings. I, too agree with such approach because while confucianism lacks any teachings for physical education the teaching of Zen for living in seclusion in remote temples is contrary to modern life. So, one should follow Zen teachings on physical education without seculding from society and use the rules and instructions of confucianism toward achieving the best way of living in society, all after breath regulation and strengthening the tendon when the mind has perfectly concentrated on abdomen area.

Copa America Victory Helps Brazil End Taboos

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Brazil's conquest of the Copa America was a triumph over regional rivals, a historic taboo and the specter of Andean altitude.

But as a test for the four-time world champions, the tournament's value was less clear.

Most countries sent second-string or junior squads, saving their top players for the qualifying games for next year's World Cup in France.

Argentine coach Daniel Pasarella reportedly complained that Brazil, already qualified for the cup as defending champion, had violated an understanding by bringing its "A" team.

Even the dramatic 3-1 final over Bolivia on Sunday was less a measure of Brazil's readiness than an endurance test in the rarefied air of two-mile- (three kilometers) high La Paz.

Things looked bleak for the Brazilians late in the second half, with the score tied 1-1 and the visitors wheezing in the thin oxygen.

Bolivia rattled four shots of the Brazilians' goalpost before Ronaldo, the world's best player, took a pass from Denilson and sent a left-footed rocket into the far corner to make it 2-1 with 10 minutes left. Ze Roberto iced it with a goal in extra time.

After the game, the players revealed stories of physical agony.

"There was no air. I couldn't even breath," Ronaldo told Brazilian reporters. "It was terrible. I ran and barely moved. But I was lucky at the end."

Defender Roberto Carlos said he was saved by the whistle at halftime.

"When I finished the first half, I thought I couldn't return for the second. But the minutes of the interval were precious," he said. "At the end, I couldn't take another step."

"I thought I would collapse," said Denilson, the revelation of the tournament. "At the last, I was playing only on heart."

Still, the win gave Brazilians their first conquest of the Copa America outside their own country. And it avenged a humiliating 2-0 loss in La Paz during the qualifying games for the 1994 World Cup. (AP)

Afghan Opposition Denies Fall of Northeastern Town

Compiled From Dispatches

TEHRAN — Afghan opposition forces on Wednesday denied a report that they had lost control of the northeastern town of Taloqan, headquarters of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, to the Taleban militia.

A Pakistan-based Afghan news service said the Taleban had seized Taloqan, capital of Takhar Province, with the help of local commanders and local people after an overnight offensive from neighboring Kunduz Province, Reuter reported.

Opposition spokesman Dr Abdullah told reporters that the Taleban were nowhere near Taloqan. "Taleban forces are neither in Taloqan nor anywhere else in Takhar Province," he said.

He acknowledged that Taleban supporters had entered the Bangi area of Takhar from neighboring Kunduz Province on Tuesday but said they were driven out on Wednesday by the forces of former government military commander Ahmad Shah Masood.

Abdullah, speaking by telephone from the opposition-held Panjsher Valley north of Kabul, said Masood's forces had crushed a revolt by a local Pashtun tribe in Takhar and also taken Chardara district in central Kunduz, killing 150 pro-Taleban fighters.

Earlier the Afghan Islamic press reported that the Taleban militia Wednesday seized the headquarters of President Burhanuddin Rabbani in northern Afghanistan, the Afghan Islamic press reported.

The Taleban militia aided by local commanders captured Taloqan, the main city of Takhar Province, after a two-day offensive launched Tuesday from neighboring Kunduz, the private information service said.

The city is the headquarters of Rabbani, who was ousted from Kabul by the Taleban last September and is part of an opposition military alliance.

Abdullah said fighting was going on around Bangi bridge, which marks the approximate boundary between Kunduz and Takhar.

(AFP)

Russia to Ask UN to Lift Iraq Embargo

MOSCOW — Russia will ask the UN Security Council in October to lift an oil embargo against Iraq on condition that Iraq fully fulfills all UN resolutions, Interfax news agency said on Wednesday.

The agency quoted first Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov as telling a visiting Iraqi National Assembly delegation that lifting the oil embargo and re-vitalizing trade ties between Russia and the Arab state was in Russia's interests.

"In October Russia will put before the UN Security Council the question of removing the oil embargo from Iraq on condition that its government strictly fulfills all UN resolutions," Interfax said, attributing the remarks to Nemtsov.

The Iraqi Parliament delegation is headed by speaker of Iraq's National Assembly, Saadoun Hammadi.

Nemtsov, who is also Russia's fuel and energy minister, said he hoped the Iraqi leadership would cooperate with the United Nations to help lifting the sanctions.

Yegor Stroyev, chairman of Russia's Upper House of Parliament, the Federation Council, also told Interfax that lifting sanctions against Iraq, above all oil sanctions, was the main issue during his talks with the Iraqi delegation.

(Reuter)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

PRESIDENT...

In a separate meeting here on Wednesday, the outgoing ambassador of Brunei to Tehran, Haji Abdulmuti, held a meeting with the president at the end of his mission to Tehran.

Calling his achievements during his tenure in Iran positive, he said that the exchange of visits between high-ranking Iranian and Bruneian officials would serve as an important point in the two countries' relations.

President Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction over the cordial relations between Iran and Brunei, hoping that the friendship and strong cooperation between the two countries would further expand.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

EGYPT...

"Netanyahu deals with the Egyptian mediation more as a public relations exercise than as serious ideas to consider in order to extract the peace process from its crisis," Abdel Rahman, who is secretary general of Arafat's self-rule Cabinet, told journalists in Ramallah.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday he expected some progress within a week in his country's efforts to end the halt in negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, which have not been held in over three months.

"In the past few weeks, there were some contacts between the Israelis and Palestinians. I am not in a position to reveal any of that ... (but) I hope they could conclude something within a week," he said.

Cairo has been trying to mediate in the dispute for over a month, but the Palestinians have repeatedly accused Netanyahu of making no reponse to Egyptian efforts.

Mubarak's envoy Ossama al-Baz, who has been spearheading the mediation effort, delayed a new shuttle expected this week because of an ongoing political crisis in Netanyahu's government, the Egyptian news agency MENA said.

But Abdel Rahman said Mubarak had called off the shuttle because Israel "has not shown any seriousness in ending the crisis."

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

TURKEY'S...

news agency said.

On Tuesday, Turkey's chief prosecutor asked a state security court to look into charges by Workers Party leader Dogu Perincek that Ciller accepted money from abroad in exchange for activities against Turkey's interests.

Ciller described the leftist as a traitor.

"The traitor, Dogu Perincek, is now continuing to display his enemy plans...to destroy the unity and togetherness of our country," Ciller's said in a petition to Ankara prosecutors' office.

Ciller stepped down on Monday after a year as deputy prime minister and foreign minister in a coalition with Islamists.

The conservative leader played down the accusations when asked about them on Tuesday. "All of these are small things," she said.

She became Turkey's first woman prime minister in 1993 but the secularist establishment turned against her after she went into government with the Islamists, who subsequently dropped damaging corruption charges against her in Parliament.

(Reuter)

Huseinov, an Art Lover

(Contd From Pg. 12)

fahan and Shiraz. Again, I returned to Mashhad and also visited Tabas and Quchan and some other cities that I cannot remember their names now. During my next trip, I like very much to visit Yazd and Ardabil. During my last visit, I travelled like a vagrant from city to city and village to village and painted pictures.

Q: You said you were fascinated by the kindness and artistic nature of the Iranians. Was there anything else that you noticed?

A: We have a proverb here that says an artist should see the stars in the muddy water. I found the Iranian culture very interesting with many profound aspects.

Q: Are you familiar with the Iranian painters?

A: I cannot remember their names now, but I have their names in my notebook. I am also familiar with the Iranian miniaturists and calligraphers.

Q: Do you like Iranian painting?

A: Yes, very much. I started my work with the Iranian miniature. I also like the Iranian calligraphy.

Q: When will you exhibit your works in Iran and for how many days?

A: That is in summer, but the exact date is not fixed yet. I think the exhibition will last at least for a week.

Q: How you do feel about exhibiting your works in Iran?

A: I am very happy. Any artist likes to exhibit his works. A painting looks different in an exhibition from a studio.

I do not paint for money. I paint in order to convey my feelings and ideas to the people. That is what I really hope to achieve when I come to Iran. In general, it is the duty of the artists, particularly the painters, to convey their feelings and impressions to others.

Q: What role do you think painting can play in creating proximity among nations?

A: Let me give you an example. If there are two people next to each other with one frowning and the other smiling, you will be attracted by the latter. This is also true of painting. In fact, painting is the smiling portrait of a nation because it displays beauty. When a nation's beauty is taken to another country, it can create warm feelings among the people of the second country.

To give you another example, I like the Japanese people, although I have never been to Japan. The reason is that I like their art. The same thing is also true of the Iranian art. That is why I believe other nations also think the same way.

Secondly, growth and development of the nations is largely the outcome of sound relations and communication. And art is a suitable language for establishing new relations.

Q: Your paintings include some sort of vagueness or complexity. Could you explain that?

A: Look for instance at the painting over there. It is titled *'Hindrance'*. It shows three old clay pots in different sizes. The pots imply a family. The thorny flowers indicate the sharp language of the mother. The rope coming out of the small pot and twining around all three pots is a token of the love for the child which keeps the family together and acts as a hindrance to its disintegration. There is also a black-and-white rope in the painting which stands for a snake, which means that good and evil things are found together.

The other painting is a picture of Persepolis (ruined capital of ancient Persia, about 30 miles northeast of Shiraz). I made its sketch under the hot sun. It was very hot, but I worked lovingly for some two hours. When I got through it, I saw a small pond nearby next to a water pump, which was in the shade of some trees. I was feeling very hot, so I walked to the pond. I started drinking the water, splashing it on my face and also plunging my head into the pond in order to cool myself down.

While I was doing this, I saw some youngsters looking at me and laughing. They were telling each other in Farsi, "The poor fellow is crazy!"

I told them in my native language, "I am crazy, but crazy for love!"

Then, I realized they did not understand my mother tongue. So I tried hard to convey my point to them in Farsi. After some thinking, I told them in Farsi, "*I is* crazy for love!"

HK's Tung Plans Dialogue With Taiwan on Future Ties

HONG KONG — Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-Hwa on Wednesday vowed to pursue dialogue with Taiwan and predicted the future of Taipei's official presence in this new special administrative region of China would be settled soon.

Hong Kong reverted to China on Tuesday, with Tung as its chief executive, after 156 years as a British colony.

The "one country, two systems" formula allowing Hong Kong to keep its capitalist system has been held up by Beijing as a model for settling the Taiwan question.

Beijing regards Taiwan as a renegade province, the last refuge of the nationalist regime that ruled the mainland before the communists won the civil war in 1949, and wants to reunify the island with the Chinese state.

Asked about the future of Hong Kong-Taiwan relations at a news conference, Tung said there would be talks.

"I hope we can continue our dialogue with the Taiwan representative in areas of business and culture," Tung said.

He said the fate of Taiwan's representative office in Hong Kong, currently a travel agency, was not yet settled.

"We are still discussing these issues through different channels. They are very constructive. It would not take long for us to come to a conclusion," Tung said.

Tung, whose family shipping business has substantial commercial ties in Taiwan, would not be drawn on how soon, if at all, he might take up an invitation from Taipei's Premier Lien Chan to visit the island.

(Reuter)

Sectarianism Pushing Pakistan Towards Civil War

ISLAMABAD — A Pakistani Shia Muslim leader, in remarks published Wednesday, warned of looming civil war in Pakistan stemming from sectarian conflict, as police rounded up around 200 militants.

Sectarianism has crossed all limits and is pushing the country towards a civil war, the *Frontier Post* quoted Allama Sajid Naqvi as saying Tuesday.

Naqvi, who heads the Shia political party, Tehreek-i-Jafria Pakistan, issued the warning at a news conference in the city of Dera Ismail Khan in the north west frontier province, the paper said.

He said around 90 "innocent" Shia Muslims were killed in the past five months, adding the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had "failed" to stem sectarian feuds.

Killing of Shia will no longer be "tolerated," he warned.

Religiously-motivated shootings and gun attacks in Pakistan's largest Province of Punjab have left more than 100 people dead this year, both among Shia and Sunni Muslims.

(AFP)

First Food Aid Arrives for Northeast of North Korea

ROME — A first consignment of food aid for famine-hit areas in the northeast of North Korea has arrived in the country, the UN World Food Program (WFP) said Tuesday.

The WFP said the chartered U.S. freighter Judy Litrico had docked at the port of Nampo with 24,953 tons of food. Two-thirds would be unloaded at Nampo and the rest taken on to Chongjin for distribution in the northeast in mid-July.

The UN agency said it had been authorized to open offices in the port cities of Chongjin and Hamhung, as well as at Sinuiju near the Chinese border to supervise the aid distribution.

The Rome-based agency had also been provided with a helicopter to reach remoter areas, it said.

The WFP aims to bring aid to 4.7 million people, especially children and hospital patients. It has received almost all of the $95.5 million needed to prevent a disastrous famine in North Korea, which has suffered two years of disastrous floods.

On Monday the WFP launched an urgent appeal for 50,000 tons of fertilizer costing $11 million for North Korea's paddy-fields.

If the fertilizer is delivered within the next six weeks, it may be possible to increase North Korea's rice production by 24 percent, or 370,000 tons, the WFP said.

(AFP)

12,000 Tourists Visit Astara

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Governor of Astara, Gilan Province, Abdolreza Biazar, said in Astara on Wednesday that during the first quarter of the current Iranian year 1376 (started March 21, 1997) over 12,000 tourists visited Astara, in northwest of the province.

He told IRNA that the tourists who were mostly from Azerbaijan Republic came to visit both tourist spots and trade centers.

In order to expand and improve tourism facilities some projects are being carried out in Astara, he concluded.

هكذا من الأصل

Pol Pot Fever Fades, but Trial Efforts Continue

PHNOM PENH— Hopes were high last week that Khmer Rouge guerrilla leader Pol Pot would finally be brought to justice, but political analysts said on Tuesday there would have to be long and complicated negotiations before his fate was sealed.

Although journalists who rushed to Phnom Penh on news of the strongman's capture last month are drifting away disappointed, analysts say there is still a chance he would be handed over by former comrades now holding him in their northern Cambodian jungle base.

"Last week we expected too much, expectations were too high," said Kao Kim Hourn, director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, a local think tank.

"We should look to the reality on the ground, things are more difficult, they're very complicated," he said. "I think the possibility (that Pol Pot will be brought to justice) is still there, but the whole thing is going to be low profile from now on".

Pol Pot — the man responsible for the death of more than one million Cambodians during his 1975-79 "killing fields" rule — has not been seen in public since late 1979.

Speculation that he would finally be forced from his jungle lair reached fever pitch last month following the sudden fracturing of the Khmer Rouge leadership in a still not fully explained spasm of violence.

But a decision on Pol Pot's fate has been complicated by the animosity between first prime minister prince Norodom Ranariddh and his uneasy coalition partner, second prime minister Hun Sen.

Both leaders see political advantages, as well as dangers, in the demise of the Khmer Rouge. Foreign pressure for an international trial is also a problem.

"In the absence of Pol Pot as supreme decision maker and conflicting views and interests of those left, they're probably having difficulty coming to a decision," said Cambodia scholar Steve Heder.

"There are very complicated triangular negotiations going on (between the two prime ministers and the Khmer Rouge)," said Heder, a lecturer at London University's School of Oriental and African Studies.

Khmer Rouge defense chief Son Sen and almost a dozen members of his family were slaughtered at the guerrillas' Anlong Veng stronghold late last month. Pol Pot fled the base but was later captured by his former colleagues.

The surprise break up came as Ranariddh and his Funcinpec Party negotiated with the rebels to try and persuade them to give up their fight and defect to the government.

Ranariddh's chief negotiator said he had seen Pol Pot under detention at Anlong Veng and that his former comrades in arms would hand him over to the government within days.

Ranariddh said late last week that Khmer Rouge political leader Khieu Samphan had to announce on the guerrillas' radio that he had broken with Pol Pot and recognized the Cambodian constitution before negotiations could move forward.

But Hun Sen insisted that Pol Pot and other Khmer Rouge leaders surrender unconditionally.

The rebels' clandestine radio has yet to make any announcement on the subject, and analysts said part of the problem was the likelihood that the remaining rebel leaders holding Pol Pot were undecided on what to do with him.

"They're still unable to square the circle...but they (the Khmer Rouge leaders) are going to have to make some major concessions and those could include allowing the international community to get their hands on Pol Pot," Heder said.

High-profile moves to set up an international tribunal to try Pol Pot were also continuing behind the scenes, sources said.

That hasn't ground to a halt, but it was never going to happen so quickly," said a human rights official in Phnom Penh.

"I'm aware of a lot of efforts being made, but there will be no visible outcome until it gets on the agenda of the U.N. Security Council," he said.

Ranariddh has made clear that he is cool on U.S. efforts to bring Pol Pot to trial on genocide charges.

(Reuter)

Tung Gets "Restore Democracy" Call by HK Newspaper

HONG KONG— New chief executive Tung Chee-hwa's first task should be to restore democracy that existed in Hong Kong under British rule, the English-language South China Morning Post newspaper said on Tuesday.

The Hong Kong Standard, in another editorial marking the first day of rule under Beijing, said the midnight handover to China was "as smooth as anyone could have expected, undoubtedly a happy augury of things to come".

Chinese-language newspapers gave an upbeat welcome to the territory's new Chinese rulers— one saying Hong Kong could show China that capitalism is superior to socialism—but most also struck a cautious note.

The post, which has recently had to fend off accusations of self-censorship on issues sensitive to Beijing, carried a special front-page section dominated by a picture of China President Jiang Zemin and the text of his handover statement in English and Chinese.

"A more splendid future for HK," read the banner headline. The heavily stylized layout prompted some wags to comment that it looked more like the "South China People's Post".

But its inside editorial said: "from the morning of July 1, the task of chief executive Tung Chee-hwa is to keep the best of what the British left behind, while helping the evolution needed to meet the challenges of a new millennium.

"His first, and most critical, political challenge will be to restore the degree of democracy that existed before today's swearing-in of the provisional legislature."

The provisional legislature is a Beijing-appointed body that replaced the democratically elected legislative council scrapped shortly after the midnight handover.

Tung has promised elections in May 1998, and called on all members of democratic groups and parties to take part.

"It is vital this becomes reality and that an electoral system develops which gives everyone an equal chance of success," the South China Morning Post said.

The Hong Kong Standard said great challenges lay ahead, as the autonomy formula of "one country-two systems" for Hong Kong under Chinese rule, was implemented.

"In that challenge lies our greatest opportunity, for the lack of precedent allows full play to our initiative, our skills, our daring. It is for us to seize the opportunity with wisdom, patience and extreme sensitivity," the Standard said.

"A great historic moment has eventually come," trumpeted the editorial of pro-Beijing Wen Wei Po.

"At this moment, millions of Chinese from the miles of rivers and mountains in the motherland, inside and outside the Great Wall, from north to south, are cheering to their hearts' content," it said.

"We've concluded Hong Kong's old era and created Hong Kong's new era," it said.

"Bless Hong Kong, bless the motherland," the headline read. Even the Apple daily, a staunch critic of China, toned down the negative side and expressed a cautious welcome.

"In fact, the Chinese government welcomed Hong Kong back to the motherland with a solemn and grand ceremony. Thousands of compatriots on the mainland excitedly celebrated our return to the big family. There is no doubt on the great importance China attaches to Hong Kong."

Another Chinese-language newspaper Ming Pao said the success of the "one country, two systems" policy depends on mutual respect and mutual understanding of China and Hong Kong.

"The implementation of "Hong Kong people rule Hong Kong" and "high degree of autonomy" seems to be very easy, but it takes a lot of tolerance and self-control from both sides," it said.

Hong Kong Economic Journal said to make one country two systems long-lasting, Hong Kong should show China eventually that the capitalist system is better than the socialist system.

"To gain the real respect from China, Hong Kong should, apart from continuing our economic development, also work on political, cultural, educational... aspects," it said. (Reuter)

Palestinian Family Resists Land Dealers

JAYNSAFUT, West Bank— Abdullah al-Bashir has spent the past 20 years watching ever-growing red-roofed Jewish settlements eat up the land around his village.

The Palestinian says he has been offered hundreds of thousands of dollars to give up the olive groves that sustain his family.

"I absolutely refused. I told (the land dealer), 'if you bring me all the money of Solomon, I will not sell one stone from my land,'" said Bashir, a 58-year-old father of 13.

He said that over the years his family had battled fraud, threats and sabotage by land dealers and high legal costs to hang on to their 50 acres (20 hectares) of land.

In this region where Arabs who sell land to Jews can end up rich or dead, land is worth more than the crops grown on it.

Experts estimate that between 40 and 70 percent of West Bank Palestinian land has been confiscated, closed off or bought by Israel since it captured the area in the 1967 Middle East war.

The loss of land splintered Palestinian society as farming families sent their sons to work in the city, said Saleh Abdul-Jawad, director of Bir Zeit university's research center.

"Land became for the Palestinian something like a mother... without land, you feel like an orphan," he said.

But many families have been unable to save their land. Most of them don't have deeds to their homes, their families having lived there since before such documents were drawn up, Abdul-Jawad said.

Although much of the land was confiscated for military or public use, about 130.000 Jews have settled in the West Bank and Gaza amid two million Palestinians since Israel captured the areas in the 1967 Middle East war.

Palestinian land dealers play the middleman, sometimes making millions off sales before being whisked away to safety inside Israel.

Bashir Family Welcomes Death for Land Dealers

To prevent more land loss, the Palestinian Authority last month decided an old Jordanian law which imposed the death penalty on Arabs who sell land to Jews should hold sway in the West Bank.

Since then, the authority has jailed more than 20 suspected land dealers. Three others have turned up dead.

The international community has decried the law as cruel and inhuman, but the Bashir family says it wants land dealers to die.

"All of this suffering and hurt came to the Palestinian villages and the countryside from the dirty doings of the land dealers," Bashir said.

Rumours of horrific land sales have instilled fear in this village of 2,000, fenced between a road and six Jewish settlements.

There is one about a boy who killed his father and dipped the dead man's finger in black ink to stamp a deed of sale, Abdullah's son Ahmad al-Bashir said. Sometimes, he said, land dealers use footprints to sign the deeds.

"I blame them for giving the Israelis a good chance and opportunity to build housing settlements for strangers who came to announce themselves as the new lords of the land," Abdullah al-Bashir said, adding he does not support vigilante justice.

Outside, from one of the Bashir family's many olive groves, Ahmad al-Bashir, 37, points to a fortified hill with a lone house on top. That's the settler's palace, he said.

At the base of the hill, signs on a barbed wire fence warn of land mines, and lush olive groves further up remain unpicked. The man, Bashir says, will not let Palestinians climb the hill to cultivate their land.

Tactics of Land Dealers, Settlers

Personal experience has taught Abdullah al-Bashir to believe the land sale rumours.

"From 1979, they tried to put pressure in different areas. Three times at least they burned olive groves," he said, blaming settlers and land dealers.

"Sometimes they cut the olive trees. Sometimes they fill the water wells with stones," he said, adding that a land dealer once forged his signature on a deed of sale.

He also has been refused Israeli permits to develop his land.

Palestinian authorities say his experience is not unique. "The land dealers used very dirty methods against the villagers during the past 20 years," said Rafah Rawajby, a Palestinian security officer who monitors land sales.

"Among these methods are blackmail, murder, kidnapping and fraud," he said.

Although the Bashir family has managed to keep all their land, they don't think their fight is over. Every day, they look up at the hilltop settlements and watch for signs of expansion.

"We have a decision from the court that they will not take or use any part of our land," Ahmad al-Bashir said. "But still we are worried. They can do it by force."

(Reuter)

Pakistan Bans MPs From Crossing Floor

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan's National Assembly (lower house) passed a constitutional amendment on Tuesday designed to prevent parliamentarians from changing sides.

The 217-seat assembly voted 181-0 in favour of the bill, which was passed by the senate (upper house) on Monday.

"This bill is intended to provide against defection of elected members with a view to obtaining a clean and honourable political state of affairs," the bill stated.

The change means a parliamentarian may lose his seat if he breaches party discipline, votes against the party line or abstains from voting, in a way that contravenes party policy.

The amendment greatly enhances the power of party leaders with regard to their parliamentary groups.

once a party's disciplinary committee acts against an alleged defector, the MP concerned may appeal only to his party leader, whose decision overrides that of any court in the land.

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the constitution, no court, including the supreme court and a high court, shall entertain any legal proceedings, exercise any jurisdiction or make any order in relation to any action under this article (of the constitution)," the amendment says.

Pakistani parliamentarians have in the past sometimes changed their loyalties for political advantage, amid accusations of bribery, intimidation and other malpractices.

"It was part of our manifesto," Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told the National Assembly after the vote. "Our politics was tainted to a point where it had no parallel in the Third World."

It was the second constitutional amendment passed by Sharif's government since it took power after February elections gave it more than a two-thirds parliamentary majority.

On April 1, the senate and National Assembly unanimously passed a constitutional amendment stripping the president of his controversial powers to dismiss assemblies, sack government and appoint military chiefs and provincial governors.

President Farooq Leghari, who had sacked Benazir Bhutto's government in November on disputed charges of corruption and misrule, said he was not upset at losing his powers.

During her three years in office, Bhutto often urged Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League, then in opposition, to join forces with her to achieve the two-thirds' majority needed to pass constitutional changes both parties wanted, but their bitter political rivalry prevented any such cooperation.

(Reuter)

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Man Killed for Protesting Attack on Barking Dog

***HYDERABAD, India** — Police have arrested six men on charges of murdering a factory worker who criticized them for hurling rocks at a barking dog.*

Apparently irritated at the stray dog that barked at them when they stopped Monday night to get directions in Hyderabad, some men hurled rocks to scare it away.

That angered Durgesh, who had given them directions, and he chided them for hurting the dog.

A scuffle ensued and the six men beat up Durgesh, who uses only one name. He died a little later. (AP)

Shoplifter Killed by U.S. Police in Germany

***AUGSBURG, Germany** — U.S. military police have shot dead a shoplifter at a barracks in this southern city, a public prosecutor said Wednesday.*

The 43-year-old civilian, who was employed by the U.S. Army, was said to have stolen cigarettes at an army shopping center Tuesday.

Witnesses said a military policeman fired one shot fatally wounding the man when he tried to flee in his car. (AFP)



Doctors Find Fetus in Egyptian Boy's Stomach

CAIRO — An Egyptian teenager who complained of stomach pains was found to have his underdeveloped twin fetus lodged above his abdomen where it had been slowly feeding off him for the past 16 years, medical sources said on Wednesday. They said doctors found an 18-cm long fetus weighing two kg with a head, an arm, a tongue and fully-formed teeth when they operated on Hisham Ragab, 16, a building worker. An x-ray had shown a swollen sac had been pressing against his kidneys. Medical examination of the teeth found in the fetal mouth cavity revealed that they were those of a 16-year-old, indicating that the fetus had been feeding off Ragab's cells for survival, medical sources said.

Chaos Bloodies Taiwan's Constitutional Assembly

TAIPEI — Taiwan's constitutional reform process degenerated into chaos on Wednesday as National Assembly deputies punched, kicked and gouged each other to the point where blood flowed. Two deputies were hospitalized.

Japan Weekly Uses Photo of Boy Arrested in Murder

TOKYO — The arrest of a self-confessed 14-year-old suspect in a grisly murder that has shocked Japan took another twist on Wednesday when a photo magazine broke a taboo and carried his photograph. The use of the photograph in the weekly *Focus* magazine, which hit newsstands on Wednesday, came after anonymous contributors to some web sites on the Internet revealed what appeared to be the name of the suspect. Police have kept the suspect's identity under wraps because the strict juvenile law says authorities must not reveal names and details of criminal suspects under 18 years of age.

Grand Old Lady Peaks Early for Her Birthday

HONG KONG — The grand old lady of Hong Kong decided on Wednesday to celebrate her 70th birthday early and join in the China handover celebrations.

Fans Bite Ears and Shoot Each Other Over Tyson Fight

MANILA — One Filipino fan was shot dead by his uncle while another bit his neighbor's ear during arguments over boxer Mike Tyson's disqualification for chumping on Evander Holyfield's ear in their world heavyweight title bout.

160 Arrested in Farmers' Protests in Egypt

CAIRO — At least 160 people were arrested Wednesday as angry Egyptian farmers set fire to an Agriculture Ministry office and warehouses in a second day of protests against a controversial land law.

Residents Sue Municipality for Paying Thatcher $150,000

TOKYO — A group of residents of the northern Japanese city of Sendai has sued the municipality for paying former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher 17 million yen ($150,000) for a two-hour lecture last year.

Romanian Border Police Seize 610,000 Fake Dollars

BUCHAREST — Romanian border police found 610,000 forged dollars early Wednesday in a bus belonging to a Turkish transport company as it was trying to enter Romania from Bulgaria.

Diana Celebrates 36th Birthday With Young Royals

LONDON — Diana, Princess of Wales, celebrated her 36th birthday Tuesday — the first since her divorce from Prince Charles — surrounded by younger members of the British royal family.

80,000 Pigeons Killed in Cross-Channel Race

LONDON — As many as 80,000 racing pigeons released in France for a cross-English channel race to Britain have died in storms, the *Times* newspaper reported Wednesday.

Bus Accident Kills Four Young Chernobyl Victims

MOSCOW — A bus carrying children with cancer from the Chernobyl nuclear accident overturned in Belarus while taking them to Belgium for medical treatment, killing four and injuring 63, officials said. The bus was one of four taking a total of 270 Belarussian children to a medical center in Belgium.

Building Collapses Burying Construction Workers

KARACHI, Pakistan — Fifty construction workers were buried Wednesday when a partially constructed five-story apartment building collapsed in this southern port city.

Police and rescue workers dug the body of one worker from the debris. So far six other workers have been rescued but all of them were reported to be in serious condition.

A huge crane was at the site in the poor northern neighborhood of Karachi gingerly removing steel girders and cement pilings in search of more workers, said witnesses.

Rescue workers listened for any sounds that might indicate where the workers were buried.

Police and officials, who arrived on the scene, said that the workers were on the second story having their lunch when the building collapsed. (AP)



SANTIAGO XALIZINTLA, Mexico (July 1): Mexican military workers rescue a boy who was trapped in a mud slide caused by rains and the ash fall from the Popocatepetl Volcano in Santiago Xalizintla. The volcano erupted late June 30 without causing any deaths. Officials said the volcano was quiet July 1. (AFP PHOTO)

Yeltsin Sacks Scandal-Hit Justice Minister

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday sacked Justice Minister Valentin Kovalyov, caught up in a scandal involving a sauna video film, and replaced him with a former national security chief, the Kremlin said.

A Kremlin spokesman said Yeltsin, who had earlier suspended communist Kovalyov pending official investigation, had signed two decrees on the matter. Kovalyov's replacement is Sergei Stepashin, a former head of the FSB (Federal Security Service).

Yeltsin suspended his justice minister last Wednesday pending a probe into a newspaper allegations. Interior Ministry officials have said the video film, sections of which have been broadcast on Russian television, was genuine.

But Kovalyov, 53, has implied the film is fake. He asked Yeltsin to suspend him to give him time to clear his name.

Yeltsin sacked Stepashin, 45, from his top security job in June 1995 for mishandling a hostage-taking crisis in the southern Russian town of Budennovsk. At least 120 people were killed in the stand-off, and the separatist Chechen fighters who took the hostages subsequently escaped. (Reuter)

Storms Hit Hong Kong, Disrupt Handover Carnival, Traffic

HONG KONG — Thunderstorms lashed Hong Kong on Wednesday, flooding some areas and spoiling a carnival parade to celebrate the former British colony's reunion with China.

Floods disrupted traffic and kept people off the streets on the final day of a five-day holiday to mark Hong Kong's handover at midnight on Monday. Eight people were injured in a landslip.

Floats representing animals and Chinese themes stood soggily on a central waterfront promenade as organizers cancelled the procession. (Reuter)

Albanian President, PM Row Over Interior Ministry

TIRANA — Albania's Socialist-led interim government accused President Sali Berisha on Wednesday of resisting attempts to take control of the Interior Ministry and its security forces.

Government spokesman Vladimir Prela said Berisha, whose Democratic Party has admitted losing to the Socialists in Sunday's general election, had tried overnight to block the government's appointment of a new Socialist acting interior minister.

Armed groups confronted each other into the early hours of the morning around Tirana's central Skanderbeg Square, but it was impossible to identify which institutions they represented. No shots were fired and the groups later dispersed.

Prela said unidentified troops had also surrounded the prime minister's office for a time during the night.

"Berisha was extremely nervous," he told reporters. "It took several hours of frantic telephone calls to calm matters down. The ministry is completely under the control of the government."

Socialist leader Fatos Nano told reporters on Tuesday that Interior Minister Belul Celo, a member of Berisha's defeated Democratic Party, had fled the country and was being replaced as acting minister by a Socialist appointee. (Reuter)

Tanker Runs Aground in Tokyo Bay, Massive Oil Spill

YOKOHAMA, Japan — In the worst oil spill in Japanese history, a tanker ran aground in crowded Tokyo Bay on Wednesday and dumped an estimated 13,400 tons (3.9 million gallons) of crude oil off the coast of Yokohama.

The morning spill left a slick at least 5.5 kilometers (3 1/2 miles) long and sickened more than a dozen people with oil fumes. Officials said the oil had apparently stopped leaking out of gashes in the ship's hull by noon.

The 147,012-ton, Panamanian-registered Diamond Grace ran aground 6 kilometers (3.7 miles) southeast of Yokohama. By nightfall, the tanker had been dislodged with the help of two tugboats and was moving under its own power to nearby Kawasaki, where the remaining oil was to be removed.

In the fouled bay, a dozen coast guard boats patrolled the area, warning fishing boats to keep their distance and not use any lighters or matches for fear of igniting the oil. About 40 boats were throwing absorbent mats onto the water to soak up the crude. (AP)

Ukraine's Kuchma Accepts PM's Resignation

KIEV — Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma said on Wednesday he had accepted Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko's resignation.

"The resignation is accepted, and there will be a decree later today (Wednesday)," Kuchma told a news conference when asked to confirm whether Lazarenko had resigned.

Kuchma, speaking at a joint news conference with visiting Czech President Vaclav Havel, said a new candidate for prime minister would be named after consultations with Parliament, which has to approve the appointment by a simple majority.

Presidential spokesman Dmytro Markov told reporters that consultations between presidential administration officials and parliamentary group leaders had already begun. (Reuter)

N.Ireland Protestants Threaten to Kill Over March

BELFAST — Banned Protestant guerrillas in Northern Ireland issued a warning on Wednesday that they would kill people in the Catholic Irish Republic if Britain bans a contentious parade by Protestants planned for next Sunday.

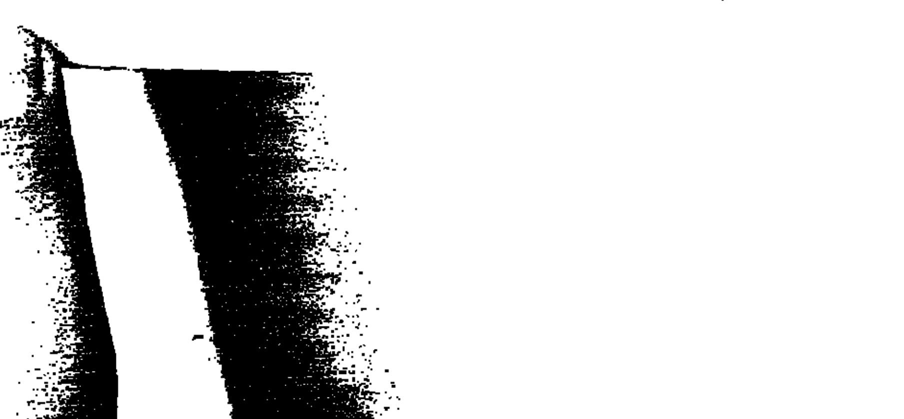
The Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF) said it would strike if Britain prevents the Orange Order from parading through a Catholic Nationalist area in the town of Portadown. A similar march last year triggered province-wide chaos.

"If the Orange parade does not go down the Garvaghy Road on Sunday, the Irish government may expect civilians to be killed in the Irish Republic," a caller using a recognized LVF code-word said in a telephoned statement to downtown radio station near Belfast.

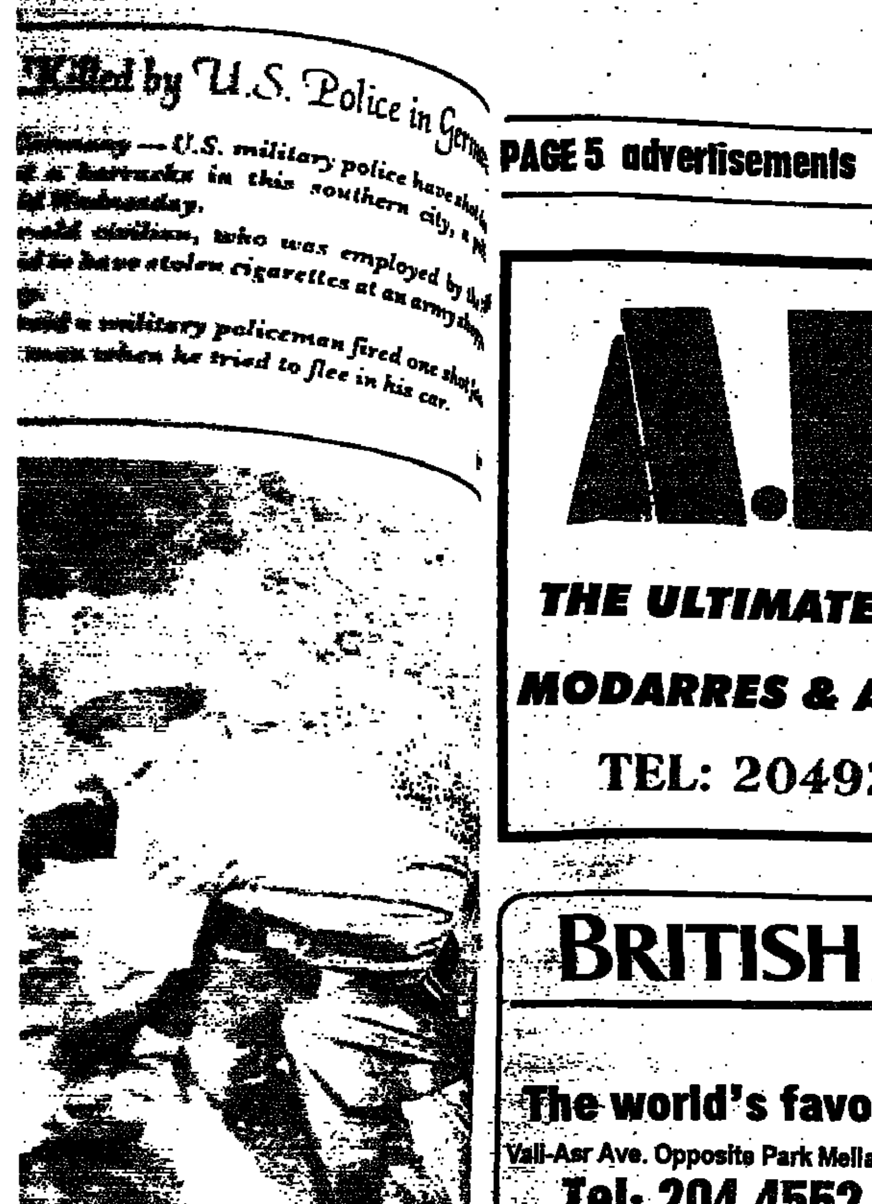
"This threat will be carried out immediately if the parade is banned."

On Tuesday, Ireland urged Britain not to permit the march through the Garvaghy Road enclave because of residents' bitter objections.

Britain has to announce a decision on the parade which is part of the turbulent annual "marching season" held by pro-British Protestants. (Reuter)









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AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

Renault to Shut Belgian Plant, Embarrass Govt.

PARIS — French carmaker Renault decided on Saturday to shut down its Belgian assembly plant employing 3,000 workers by the end of the year, despite government criticism and trade union protests in Belgium, France and beyond.

The move is likely to embarrass France's new Socialist-led government, which swept to power on June 1 on promises to fight unemployment and promote greater solidarity on jobs in Europe.

Chairman Louis Schweitzer said following a board meeting to examine an independent report on possible alternatives that the closure of the Vilvoorde plant near Brussels would go ahead.

"The chairman (Schweitzer) indicated that the procedure with a view to closing the plant in 1997 will be pursued," the company said.

The loss-making group caused a political storm on both sides of the border when it abruptly announced in February the closure of the plant. It later said it would make it conditional on the report into the viability of alternatives.

"(The report) confirms that the problem addressed by the decision to close in 1997 is a structural one, and that reducing work hours at the site and other Renault assembly sites does not constitute an alternative," the company said.

A Renault spokeswoman said the July 31 closure date announced originally could be "pushed back, perhaps to October" but that the plant would be shut down this year.

Belgian Renault union leader Karl Gacom, who waited outside the suburban Paris offices of Renault for the decision, said he was disappointed and that the workers felt left down by the new French government of Prime Minister Lionel Jospin.

"We had hoped that a new Socialist government would take our side," Gacom told France INFO radio.

"Neither Schweitzer nor Jospin are off the book with Renault staff, nor before French and European public opinion," the Communist-led CGT union said.

Renault ordered the independent report following a strike at Vilvoorde and sympathy stoppages at plants in France and Spain, as well as criticism from Belgian political leaders, the former Center-Right French government and the new Left-Wing government.

Jospin said in his maiden parliamentary speech on June 19 that he would review French law on company lay-offs in the wake of the Renault move.

Ex-Socialist Party leader Henri Emmanuelli said after confirmation of the closure plan that he wanted the matter raised in the Socialist group at the National Assembly.

The decision was "very bad news for the Vilvoorde employees, but also for all those who expect a different vision and action from the new (Socialist-led) coalition", he said in a statement.

The Renault CFDT union said the report drawn up within a few weeks by consultant Danielle Kaisergruber was flawed and had served as an "alibi for the public authorities".

Renault is still 46 percent owned by the state, which has representatives on the board.

Renault said Schweitzer would continue talks with unions on a plan including financial compensation and offers of employment to Vilvoorde workers at other Renault factories in France.

Renault would also ensure some form of industrial activity was continued at Vilvoorde by Renault or other firms, creating "around 400 jobs". It would also try to find a buyer willing to devote the site to automobile business.

The spokeswoman said 3,100 workers were concerned. Unions had been informed in previous meetings with Renault management that it would be possible to offer 272 jobs in French factories to Vilvoorde employees — 210 workers' jobs and 62 office posts.

There were also tentative offers from firms in Belgium and Luxembourg which could employ 230 Vilvoorde workers, she said.

The Vilvoorde plant assembles the popular Renault Megane but the firm says the closure is part of an essential reorganisation of an assembly network which is more scattered and costly than those of European rivals.

Renault said in March it made a 1996 loss of 5.25 billion francs — its first loss in 10 years — including 3.91 billion francs put aside to pay for the Belgian withdrawal.

Industry sources said management at Renault's Belgian subsidiary would meet unions on Monday.

(Reuter)

I Was Offered Rolex Too, Says Prodi

ROME — Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi said Friday he had refused a 17,000-dollar Rolex watch offered to world leaders at last week's G8 summit in the United States.

The famous watchmaker personally presented white-gold timepieces to most of the eight world leaders attending the summit of the rich industrial G7 countries plus Russia. It was reported the leaders of Italy and Japan would be delivered their watches later.

Prodi, in a letter to the daily La Repubblica, said contrary to press reports he too had been offered the gift. "You will acknowledge that such a prestigious company would never have made such a mistake," he quipped.

But Prodi said while thanking Rolex for its offer he had decided not to accept valuable gifts from private companies. There are no rules on what Italian heads of state or government can accept.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair immediately turned down the watch and both French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said later they were giving theirs away.

U.S. President Bill Clinton and his counterparts from Russia and Canada accepted the watches. Japan was to get its watch through a Rolex representative back home — time was too pressing at the summit, the company said.

(AFP)

Charles Dickens Alive and Well in Sweden

HUDIKSVALL, Sweden — Charles Dickens recently checked out a copy of "the Pickwick Papers" at a Swedish library, raising a few eyebrows as he handed over his library card, the paper Hudiksvalls Tidning said on Friday.

Charles Dickens, a Swedish forester, is the great great grandson of the first cousin of the author Charles Dickens, Matthew Dickens.

According to the paper, the Swedish Charles Dickens has researched his family history and discovered that Matthew Dickens, who was an engineer, moved from England to Sweden but returned to England after just a few years.

Matthew's son, James, decided however to stay in Sweden, and the rest is history.

Meanwhile, forester Dickens is not so fond of his namesake, even though he did just re-read "the Pickwick Papers".

"Of course he had a sharp pen as a social critic, but I don't like him as a writer. His humor is strange and heavy," he said.

"He died filthy rich and was at least as successful as a businessman as he was a writer," Dickens added.

(AFP)

Queen Elizabeth Continues Canadian Tour as Hong Kong Departs Her Empire

OTTAWA, Canada — Sweltering heat dominated the day in two communities welcoming Queen Elizabeth II on Monday as she continued her Canadian tour.

The queen started her day flying from a sweltering Toronto to an even hotter north bay, Ontario, and then to Ottawa, her hottest destination of the day, with temperatures reaching 32 degrees centigrade.

The heat and humidity apparently cut the number of well-wishers to the hundreds — rather than the anticipated thousands — who ventured out in north bay to greet her and the Duke of Edinburgh.

In Ottawa, the queen reviewed the governor general's footguards, a regiment based on the traditions of the British guards. At least six guardsmen and guardswomen collapsed during the ceremony.

The governor general's footguards, dressed in bearskins like their British counterparts, allow women in their ranks, unlike the British guards.

Another difference between the parade in Canada and similar parades in Britain was that the Ottawa ceremony took place on the grass of the governor general's cricket field.

The field, used for the British game in the days when London appointed governors general, now serves as a gigantic lawn and a helicopter pad for the governor general, who represents the queen as Head of State in Canada.

North bay was chosen as a stop on the current tour partly because it is the home town of Ontario Premier Mike Harris.

As the royal couple arrived in north bay, their son Prince Charles was half a world away, presiding over the last few minutes of British rule in Hong Kong.

In what was seen as a symbolic gesture, the queen visited Toronto's Chinatown, officially opening a geriatric residence in Canada's largest Chinese community, which boasts more than 200,000 people, most of them from Hong Kong.

Asked why the queen was visiting Chinatown, the deputy press secretary of Buckingham Palace, Penny Russell-Smith, said: "It is perhaps appropriate because we are now on the eve of the handover of Hong Kong."

Continuing on the high-tech theme of her current visit, the queen visited a tooling plant for a diamond exploration firm in north bay on Monday where she was shown a computerized lathe.

Earlier in the tour, she visited the home town of Alexander Graham Bell, the Scottish-born inventor of the telephone, and sent an E-Mail message on the Internet.

In Newfoundland, where her tour began, she sent a ham radio message back to Bristol, England, where a radio operator reported her message "received, loud and clear."

On Tuesday, the queen was to preside at Canada Day celebrations, commemorating the 130th anniversary of the nation's independence.

(AFP)

Saudi Urges Citizens to Cut Back on Water Use

DUBAI — Saudi Arabia on Tuesday launched a six-month national campaign to curb the use of water and has urged its citizens to stop wasting the precious resource, Saudi newspapers reported.

Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz, speaking on the eve of the campaign, deplored what he called the careless use of water in the desert kingdom.

"Water is a blessing of God," Prince Abdullah said, as quoted by the daily Arab News.

"He (the prince) referred to the government's difficulty in supplying adequate amounts of water to the public due to the country's geography and climate," the paper said.

Temperatures in the kingdom soar above 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) in the summer, with some regions reporting highs of more than 50 Celsius (122 Fahrenheit) last month.

Saudi Arabia relies on scarce rainfall, non-renewable underground water and desalination plants to meet the water demands of its population of 18 million, which is growing at 3.5 to four percent a year.

Water and other utilities are heavily subsidized in Saudi Arabia, contributing to widespread waste and financial losses by public power and water companies.

The prince said the waste of water by some citizens had prompted the government to launch the awareness programme.

According to the government's Five-Year Development Plan to 2000, estimated total water demand stood at 18.2 billion cubic meters a year in 1995 and was expected to drop to 17.5 billion by the turn of the century.

The plan said non-renewable ground water supplied about 80 percent of the kingdom's total water needs, with desalination covering only about four percent of demand.

The government has already taken steps, such as a decision a year ago to stop grain exports, to drastically reduce water use. Frequent advertisements on state-run television also call on the public to rein in the use of water.

(Reuter)

Tycoon Schneider a Weary Man in Frankfurt Court

FRANKFURT — The double-breasted suits and toupee are gone. So are the brash comments of a bricklayer who built one of Germany's largest real estate empires.

Juergen Schneider, 63, who was extradited from Miami last February after a year-long manhunt, appeared a broken man on Monday in a Frankfurt courtroom, admitting in public for the first time that he was not as "innocent as a lamb" for the collapse of his company under the weight of five billion marks in debt in 1994.

But he still insisted on Monday that major German banks that were his top creditors shared blame for the fiasco and said he was not motivated by greed, as some would think.

"This ambitious goal took hold of me more and more," he said in a rambling 45-minute statement read out in court before nearly 100 journalists.

"Some people who know me will say I was possessed. I can hardly contradict that," said the portly Schneider, who wore a light brown blazer, striped tie and gold-rimmed glasses.

It has been a long fall from glamour for Schneider, who was always proud to be known as a "Frankfurt Boy" and who left Germany in April 1994, leaving his creditors to pick up the pieces from his work to bring flashy city centers to drab Germany.

His jet-set lifestyle, which included running his empire from a stately villa on the outskirts of Frankfurt, was even made into a popular German film called "Peanuts".

When Schneider was brought back to Frankfurt last February, he was taken to a local jail, where he was detained while waiting to face justice at his trial on Monday on fraud charges.

Schneider had said in jailhouse interviews from Miami following his arrest there that he would portray himself as a helpless victim of Deutsche Bank AG, Germany's largest commercial bank, and he denied that he backed loan requests with fraudulent documents.

But Schneider admitted for the first time on Monday that he had presented expected rental income on properties as actual income when he asked banks to extend credit.

The man who stood before the court was a far cry from the publicity-hungry Schneider, who prided himself on having earned a doctorate and who insisted on being called "Dr Schneider" at news conferences called to show off his latest high-profile project.

One of his properties was a Leipzig building which housed Auerbach's Cellar, a drinking hall featured in Goethe's play "Faust" in which a man sells his soul to the devil in return for wealth and power — and ends up being dragged off to hell.

Schneider will certainly try to pin some blame on the banks. The banks deny any wrongdoing, a view backed up by local prosecutors who pressed charges only against Schneider.

But the banks have apparently paid their dues for giving so much unchecked money to Schneider.

As the trial opened, a bankruptcy court judge in Cologne on Monday put a final estimate of bank losses in the scandal at 2.2 billion marks, while craftsmen who had done work for Schneider lost a total of 250 million marks.

"This is the amount banks are going to be stuck with," judge Axel Rohrbeck told the Colonge newspaper Koelnischer Rundschau on Monday of the 2.2 billion marks.

(Reuter)

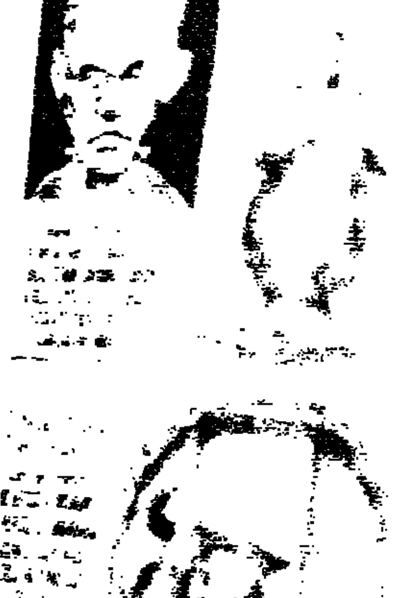
UAE Cabinet Approves Lifting Tobacco Tax to 70 Percent

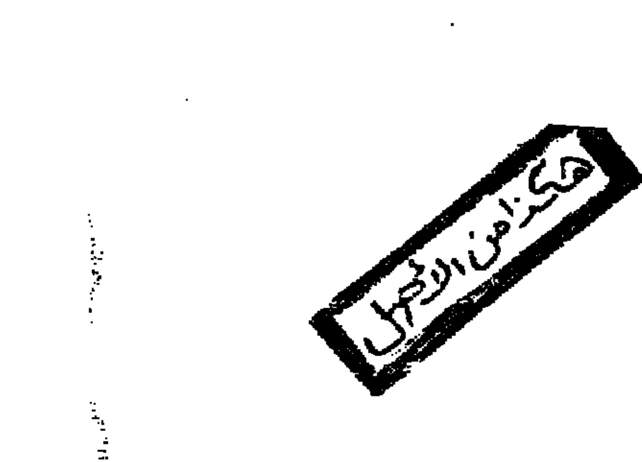
DUBAI — The United Arab Emirates' cabinet has approved a draft law to increase the tax on tobacco and related products to 70 percent from a previous 50 percent, UAE newspapers said on Tuesday.

The move clears the way for the law's final ratification by UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan, which political sources said was usually a formality.

Persian Gulf Arab states in principle agreed in December to raise customs duties on tobacco to 70 percent. The Persian Gulf Co-operation Council states — Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman — said the duties would be raised again in 2000.

(Reuter)





هكذا من الأصل

Fight Genetic Weapons, British Doctors Urge

LONDON — Gene therapy could be twisted into terrifying genetic weapons that target and destroy ethnic groups, British doctors warned on Tuesday.

The British Medical Association (BMA) is so worried by the possibility that it has commissioned a team of geneticists, biologists, lawyers and warfare experts to see if the technology is possible, and if so, to ban it.

"It is a particularly horrifying thought," said Dr. Vivienne Nathanson, head of science and ethics for the BMA, who started the study.

"If you were a dictator somewhere in the world and you wanted to get rid of a group of people in your population who were opposing you — whether you are talking about Hutus and Tutsis in Rwanda, Bosnian Serbs or 1930s Germany — you could use this," she added.

Gene therapy homes in on genes that certain people have that are different and can cause disease. For example, people with cystic fibrosis have easily identified mutations, as do some sufferers of breast cancer.

New genes, or therapeutic proteins, can be delivered using engineered DNA — the basic genetic building material.

Nathanson said this could be twisted.

"If we can target people to have a therapeutic effect then maybe you could put something in that is dangerous," she said in a telephone interview.

Race war would not be possible — races are too genetically diverse and what people recognize as "race" has little genetic basis.

"You are looking for what in Scotland would be a clan or in Africa a tribe," Nathanson said. "It's a family grouping where one would expect to see a genetic similarity."

Genes targeted by such weapons could control a person's appearance — height or hair color — or how their bodies process certain drugs.

"If that is the case, and it is likely to be the case, then it is possible to say we may have a weapon which was a virus or a chemical compound which has a genetic targeting component," Nathanson said.

"We have to recognize that there is a potential for weapons with a fair degree of selectivity and extraordinary awfulness."

Such compounds could be delivered as a gas or spray, or put into the water supply. They could kill, make people infertile or cause the birth of deformed children.

"It would probably not be 100 percent effective but I've never really come across a dictator who seemed terribly concerned about losing some of their own population," she said.

"We are doing the study at the moment using as many lawyers and other experts as we can to find out whether we think it is feasible," said Nathanson, who presented her fears to the BMA's annual meeting in Edinburgh.

"If we do think such weapons are feasible, and so far we haven't heard anything that we think means they wouldn't be, a ban that works would be needed," Nathanson said.

"It would need international collaboration and cooperation."

But Nathanson said she feared that, if such weapons were ever developed, there would be no way to ban them. For example, landmines were proving hard to ban because so many companies and governments earned money from their sale.

"One of the things we have to learn is not to wait until the technology has been learned and dispersed around the world before we ban them." *(Reuter)*

Pager Offers Freedom for the Brain-Damaged

LONDON — A lightweight pager connected to a computer can help memory-impaired patients get through their day without forgetting medication or their house keys, British researchers reported on Wednesday.

The pagers helped people with brain damage set a routine which they could eventually remember on their own, according to Barbara Wilson and Hazel Emslie, medical research council researchers at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.

The pager, called neuropage, allows a computer to prompt users about their daily activities, they wrote in a report in the journal of *Neurosurgery, Psychiatry and Neurology*.

Reminders programmed into the computers included cues to take medicine, lists of things to do and prompts to take along keys, important files or other items.

All 15 patients in the study benefited from the device, which was invented by a California engineer whose son had suffered a head injury.

One woman with a head injury was able to return to school while another whose husband was memory-impaired was able to go back to work, leaving him to manage the house and children. *(Reuter)*

Ripley's — Believe It or Not!

Believe It or Not! In Seattle, Wash., there is an annual "Spam Carving Contest" in which contestants create sculptures out of luncheon meat!

Courting grasshopper mice stand up on their hind legs and sing to their mates! LA DE DA

During the 15th Century, men in England, Scotland and France who refused a woman's proposal of marriage during a leap year could be punished by law!

7-14

SCRABBLE® GRAMS

BRAND

Letters	Bonus	Rack
T1 N1 U1 E1 O1 F4 R1		RACK 1
S1 E1 I1 Y4 H4 R1 O1	Double Word Score	RACK 2
N1 G2 A1 I1 G2 A1 M3		RACK 3
T1 K5 T1 A1 E1 S1 B3	4th Letter Triple	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 105-115

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ______
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

6-9-95

SCRABBLE® GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

Word	Rack	Score
A1 B3 O1 R1 T1 E1 D2	RACK 1	60
G2 E1 N1 I1 E1 S1	RACK 2	7
Q10 U1 I1 N1 T1 E1	RACK 3	45
S1 U1 N1 D2 R1 Y4	RACK 4	20
PAR SCORE 80-90	JUDD'S TOTAL	132

6-8-95

DENNIS THE MENACE

by Hank Ketcham

"I'M TAKING IT OVER TO MR. WILSON'S. HE SAID THE NEXT TIME I COME OVER, HE'S GONNA FIX MY WAGON..."

HEALTH CAPSULES®

by Michael A. Petti, M.D.



Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.



THOUGHT

A wise man in time of peace prepares for war.

Horace

PRAYER

Noon	13:08
Evening	20:47
Dawn (tomorrow)	04:50
Sunrise (tomorrow)	05:52

Typhoid on the Increase in Algeria

ALGIERS — Typhoid is on the increase in Algeria, where almost 1,000 cases of the disease have been detected since January, the Health Ministry announced Tuesday.

Two people have died in the outbreak, which has been aggravated by the imposition of strict water rationing due to drought.

Drinking water is distributed in the capital only on one day in three, and even hospital supplies are drastically reduced.

A ministry official blamed the spread of the disease on a mixture of poor water sanitation in rundown areas of the major cities and sewage pollution in the countryside.

The disease has been on the increase since 1991 and is concentrated in Algiers and other high population density areas like Tiaret in the southwest, Setif, Bejaia in the east and Tipaza in the west, he said.

Cases have also been discovered in Relizane in the west and the southwestern Bechar area.

A typhoid epidemic last year hit the coastal town of Ain Taya, around 20 kilometres (12 miles) east of the capital, killing two people and hospitalizing hundreds. *(AFP)*

British Doctors to Vote on Holding Euthanasia Ballot

LONDON — British doctors are next week to consider holding a ballot on whether they think voluntary euthanasia should be legalized, the British Medical Association said Sunday.

In a motion to be debated by BMA members at their annual conference in Edinburgh, doctors will be asked to test support for euthanasia by sanctioning a vote across the profession, BMA officials told reporters.

The debate will center on the difference between euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

A guiding paper issued by the BMA defines euthanasia as when a doctor "by a calculated act or omission initiates a causal sequence that results in the patient's death." With assisted suicide, the doctor "may either help or may fail to prevent a patient completing a course of action which results in his or her own death."

A survey last year found 51 percent of health professionals would be willing to assist a patient to commit suicide.

The BMA at present has a policy of opposing both euthanasia and physician assisted suicide, but doctors are entitled to offer pain-killing treatment to a terminal patient even if this might shorten their life. *(AFP)*

A Glimpse Into Life of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S)

By: Martyr Ayatollah Morteza Motahhari

The Holy Prophet of Islam with whom the divine Revelation came to an end, was born in 570 A.D. He was appointed to prophethood at the age of 40 and invited the people, in Mecca to Islam for a period of 13 years, during which he endured unbelievable hardship and difficulty. In this period he also trained a group of outstanding followers and later to Medina using it thereafter as his base. For the next 10 years he launched his divine campaign of spreading Islam and took on all the Arab powers and chieftains and eventually overpowered all of them. At the end of this 10 year period the entire Arab peninsula embraced Islam. The holy verses of the Qoran were revealed to him gradually throughout the 23 years of his prophethood. The Muslims demonstrated an unheard of fascination for the Qoran and the person of the Holy Prophet. It was in the beginning of the 11th year after the immigration to Medina that the Prophet of Islam took the eternal journey (Me'araj) to his God and was 63 years old when he passed away. He left behind a thriving community armed with a constructive ideology, committed to a universal mission. There were two factors that contributed to such dynamism, unity and spiritual power in the early Islamic community; the Qoran and the unique personal influence of the Holy Prophet among the Muslims who lived on indelibly marked by his memory.

Childhood: He was not yet born when his father passed away during a commercial journey to Syria. His grandfather Abdul Mottalib assumed his guardianship even from his childhood, he displayed evidence of a lofty and extraordinary soul, which drew everyone's attention. His grandfather realized from the very beginning that a briliant future was in store for his grandson.

He was eight years old when Abdul-Mottalib died and, according to his last will, his eldest son, Abu Talib, assumed the Prophet's guardianship. Abu Talib (the elder uncle of the Prophet) was also surprised at the strange and extraordinary character of his young nephew and felt that the young boy was different from other boys in many ways. No one ever saw the youth showing any greed toward things like eathing food and contrary to the custom of the time, he maintained a neat and clean appearance and combed his hair regularly.

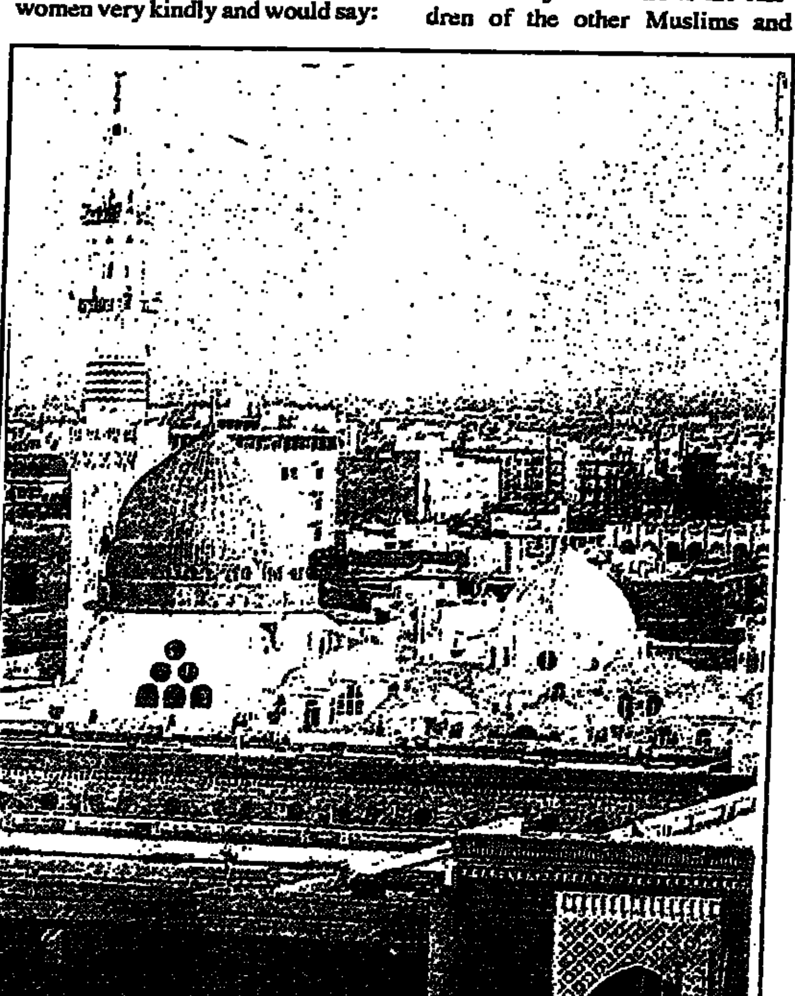
Abu Talib would repeatedly say: "I never observed anything indecent, so little as even untimely laughter from him. I never heard him lie. He did not show eagerness to join other children's games. He was fond of solitude and clear places and was very humble."

Trustworthiness: Before his prophethood he was hired by Khadija (who later become his wife) and took a commercial journey to Syria for her. In this travel, he displayed his unique honesty, trustworthiness and capabilities. He was known for his trustworthiness and capabilities. He was known for his trustworthiness to the extent that people called him "Mohammad the trustworthy," and would leave with him any of their valuables when they went on journeys.

His Battle Against Oppression and Tyranny: During the Jahilia (the age of ignorance before the revelation of Islam) he signed a treaty, with a group of other noble men who were also tired of injustices, to defend the oppressed. The convenant was made in the house of a celebrity of Mecca, Abdullah ibn Jad'an, and came to be known as the "Helf al-Fozul". Even during his prophethood he commemorated the convenant and would say he did not like it to be breached and that he would welcome another, such convenant.

His Conduct in the Family: "He was very kind to his family members and never treated his wives with violence, and this was totally in contradiction with the custom of the time. He would even tolerate bad language from some of his wives to the exent that even others would feel uncomfortable from that much tolerance. He recommended that everybody treat women very kindly and would say:

> He was also very much against seclusion and would constantly remind his companions to be aware of their obligations to their own bodies, families and friends.



MEDINA, Saudi Arabia -- The shrine of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S).

"All people have good and bad characteristics. Men should not judge their wives in terms of her bad charcteristics only. One may resent one of her charateristics but be pleased with the others. Thus he should take into account both good and bad together. He was particularly kind toward his children and grand children and would carry them on his shoulders. He would kiss them often and this was not in vogue in those days. Once, in the presence of one of the Arab elites, he kissed one of his grandsons and the man said: "I have two sons and have never kissed them even once." In reply the Prophet said: "God will not be kind to those who are not kind."

He was just as kind to the children of the other Muslims and would let them sit in his lap and caress them often.

His Treatment of the People: He was very kind to people and welcomed them with cheerfulness. He always took the initiative to greet people, even the children and slaves. He never stretched his legs in front of people and would not lean back. He would sit with his legs under him. In gatherings, he would have everybody sit in a circle so that each one had an equal position with the others. He would regularly visit his companions and if he did not see one of them for three days, he would ask for him. If the one concerned was sick he would visit him and would attend to his needs. In gatherings he would look randomly at everyone in order to treat them all equally. He hated being served and would always participate in any work to be done.

Leniency and Firmness: "He was very mild and forgiving regarding the issues that concerned himself. His great forgiving nature was one of the reasons for his success. But he was very firm. In regard to whatever concerned the public's interest and the laws of God. After the conquest of Mecca, he forgave all the people who had themselves spared nothing to harass and persecute him. He even pardoned the killer of is beloved uncle, Hamzah. But at the same time, when a woman from an influencial family committed theft he ordered her to be punished and did not consider the pleas of those who wanted her to be forgiven. He said sternly: "No one should intervene in such matters. How can we stop executing the laws of God for the sake of people? The previous nations met their end and were demolished because they failed to carry out God's commandments equally among people.

> He was known for his trustworthiness to the extent that people called him "Mohammad the Trustworthy."

They exempted the powerful from punishment and punished the weak. Verily by God, I will not be lenient in the execution of God's laws even if the one who breaches them, be from my own kinsman."

Worship: "He would dedicate apportion of his nights, a third or half and at times, two thirds of a night, to prayers in solitude. Although he spent all his days in activity, he would not reduce the length of his nightly prayers and would find peace and calm in solitary prayer with God. He did not pray for the sake of heavenly reward or from the fear of hell. It was out of his love, devotion and gratitude that he offered his prayers. One of his wives asked him why he, as the Prophet of God, who was certainly blessed and saved, prayed so much. He said: "Should I not be a grateful slave?" He would fast many days in addition to the month of fasting (Ramazan and part of Sha'aban). He fasted every other day and would totally abandon his bed in the last ten days of Ramazan to stay in the mosque for prayers.

He would advise his companions not to indulge in worship and would say it would be enough for them to fast three days in a month. He would tell them not to go to extremes in acts of worship, which he said would have reverse effect He was also very much agains seclusion and monasticism and would constantly remind his companions to be aware of there obligations to their own bodies families and friends (and not to indulge in excessive worship) When he was alone he would offer lengthy prayers, but once among others he would not allow it to be lengthy for the sake of the weak and elderly.

Piety and Humility: Piety and humility were the principles of his life. He dined on very simple dishes, dressed very modestly and humbly, and avoided pomp and luxury. He would sit on the ground on a very humble carpet. He used to milk the goat himself and would ride unsaddled horses and donkeys. He would not allow others to follow behind him in a ceremonial manner. His usual dish was barely bread and dates and he would patch has clothes and shoes himself. As humble as he was, he still did not favor poverty as philosophy of life and considered wealth, if spent in legal and decent ways, to be beneficial to society He would say wealth' if gained through legal means, would be a good fortune for the pious and would aid him to accomplish more good deeds and increase his piety

WillPower and Endurance His willpower, patience and endurance were unique and these qualities a affected his companions immensely. During his struggle it so happened that many times there seemed to be no hope for success but not for a single moment did he submit to hopelessness, nor did he ever think of defeat. His power of faith in the righteousness of what he was doing never failed.

The Savior of Mankind

Tehran Times Service

The Holy Qoran very clearly and distinctly indicates that the last Holy Prophet, Mohammad (S), was sent as bless to the mankind and he was destined to be recognized as the leader of the entire humanity for all times to come. Our Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) conveyed the message of Allah that served as a catalyst for change in all walks of life of humanity, and infact socio—political and economic configuration of the world. The Prophet (S) by his personal and practical example established social justice, universal brotherhood and equality of mankind. He was a great reformer and law giver.

God in his infinite mercy sent a number Prophets and reformers at different period to many nations, but among them the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S), served the humanity in the best way than any other Prophet. He enlightened all lands with the torch of truth and opened the gates of culture, progress, peace and harmony to the world. Mohammad (S) the Prophet of Prophets was specially selected by Allah among the descendants of Prophet Ibrahim for preaching the religion of nature i.e. Islam to all the comers of the world. The bless which he brought with him enlightened each and every corner of the earth. The bright path of truth and knowledge was shown out to all the people who lay in the abyss of darkness and ignorance of true God.

Many learned Western scholars, poets, philosophers and historians while describing the humanistic attitude and egalitarian spirit of the Holy Prophet (S) praise him for showing utmost tenderness to the oppressed people and for praising the doctrine of equality practically before mankind and thus improved his weapon of propagation and spreading of Islam. This gave place of dignity, freedom, and respect to all sections of the society. Such an example is not visible in any other religion. The Prophet (S) was compassion in person and help to all the humanity. His generous kindness for people, humanity for companions, sweetness for children and his enemies has no equal example in history.

It is gratifying to note that we, the Muslims of the world have the privilege of adhering to a path of life which is superior and much better than, other paths as compared to the Hinduism, Buddhism, Communism, Christianity, Jewish and Skihism etc. Our book, the Qoran is the mother of all revealed gospels, and it is still intact as promised by Allah and Muslims are distinguished by it; and our Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) is the most exalted of all the Prophets who himself was a personification of the Holy Qoran Mother Book: Never before but only during our Holy Prophet's time the democratic councilling with compansions came into practice for the first time in the history of the world. Islam united humanity, addressed whole mankind and did not confine its preaching to the Arabs alone. All ignorance vanished with the message and teachings of Islam and a new era of peace and harmony once again prevailed over the world. A Western admirer commenting upon our Holy Prophet (S) as a social reformer and preacher of tolerance and forebearance says," none amongst the Prophets except Mohammad could establish a social system which is exemplary and source of inspirations of centuries to come. He stood forgiveness and forebearance in person".

Last Message to Mankind.

On the 9th of Dhul Hijja, the Prophet went to Arafat from Mina Valley near Mecca where he had stayed on 8th. It is Arafat a bigger valley situated a few miles away from Mina, in which is located the Jabal-ar-Rahmat, the mount of Mercy, where the Holy Prophet (S) delivered the most moving and inspiring sermon ever given to mankind. The sermon the Prophet (S) delivered on the last pilgrimage remains a remarkable testament to the man. He was mounted on a camel and the people were assembled all around him in the plain of Arafat.

He said: "O"? people, lend an attentive ear to my words; for I

(Contd on Pg. 14)

ohammad (S)

He was known fo... trustworthiness to th... xtent that people ca... him "Mohammad th... Trustworthy"

kind

2nd Imam of Infallible Household of Holy Prophet Mohammad (S)

Tehran Times Service

With the martyrdom of Imam Ali (AS), Imam Hassan (AS), by popular acclaim of forty thousand people in Kufa, was proclaimed as the leader of the Islamic community. Not only in Kufa, but also in other places such as Mecca and Medina, there was no protest made by anyone against this proclamation-implicitly, at least, Imam Hassan (AS) was accepted as the new leader of the Islamic community by practically all sections of the Islamic world. But, in Damascus, Muawiyah bin Abu Sufyan, who had been fighting against Hazrat Ali (AS) for five years on the pretext that he was trying to "avenge" the murder of Uthman (3rd caliph), was not very happy. After five years of trying, Muawiyah was once again seeing the caliphate slip from his grasp.



MEDINA, Saudi Arabia — A group of Iranian pilgrims paying homage to Imam Hassan's (AS) grave in Baqi' cemetery, where the Second Imam of the Household of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S) lies to rest.

Caliphate

Immediately, Muawiyah decided to carry out a number of steps to ultimately gain the caliphate, firstly, he enounced the appointment of Imam Hassan (AS), refusing to accept the validity of a choice that had been made by the people, secondly he stepped up his spying and bringing activities against Imam Hassan (AS), hoping to rouse the people and entice them to his cause using money; and thirdly, he gathered an army of sixty thousand men and marched out against Kufa. It should be noted that the excuse that had been used by Muawiyah to fight against Hazrat Ali (AS) that Hazrat Ali had been somehow "responsible" for the murder of the third caliph was no longer valid: hence, it becomes clear that what Muawiyah was really after was the caliphate.

Kufa

In Kufa, the traditional fickleness of the people, that had so vexed Hazrat Ali (AS), now resurfaced; most of the tribal leaders of Kufa had only supported Imam Ali (AS), and later, Imam Hassan (AS), simply because they did not want to be dominated by the Syrians, and did not want to see the province of Syria get all the wealth that was pouring into the capital of the Islamic world. If the capital could be in Kufa, then they stood to gain a lot in materialistic terms. But when things reached a stage where they might have to die, or at least, suffer for the cause of Imam Hassan (AS), they suddenly became very much inclined towards peace—an inclination which was strongly encouraged by Muawiyah with bribes and promises of power to the tribal leaders. One by one, tribal leaders either started defecting outright to Muawiyah's side, or else proclaimed their unwillingness to fight for Imam Hassan (AS), through both words as well as deeds.

Faced with this difficult situation, Imam Hassan (AS) had two choices; he could have gone on and fought against Muawiyah with the small force that remained with him, being martyred in the process or he could abdicate and leave the worldly caliphate to Muawiyah. The first course of action would have reduced the status of Imam Hassan (AS) to that of Muawiyah ibn Abu Sufyan, making it seem like a fight for the caliphate between two contenders. It would also have camouflaged the real issue, which was whether the leadership of the Islamic community would be a religious one, or whether it would be a political one; whether Islam would mean a theocratic state for all, or whether it would mean a kingdom for a particular racial group; and whether the leader of the *Ummah* was to be an Imam, or whether he was to be a mere king. At that particular moment, the situation was not right for the surfacing of the real issue: That had to wait for Imam Hussein's (AS) time, when the difference between right and wrong, as well as the real roots of the conflict, would be much more clear.

Conditions

Be it as may, Imam Hassan (AS) agreed to give up the caliphate. Contemptuously refusing the offer of money that Muawiyah had made, Imam Hassan (AS) instead drafted his own conditions, which are worth quoting in full:

1) That Muawiyah should rule according to the Book of Allah, the Sunna of the Prophet (S), and the conduct of the righteous caliphs. 2) that Muawiyah will not appoint or nominate anyone to the caliphate after him, but the choice will be left to the *shura* of the Muslims. 3) That the people will be left in peace wherever they are in the land of God. 4) That the companions and followers of Ali (AS), their lives properties, their women, and their children, will be guaranteed safe conduct and peace. This is a solemn agreement and covenant in the name of God, binding Muawiyah bin Abu Sufyan to keep it and fulfil it. 5) That no harm or dangerous act, secretly or openly, will be done to Hassan ibn Ali, brother Hussein, or to anyone from the family of the Prophet (S). Muawiyah readily accepted these conditions, his zeal for revenge suddenly forgotten, in the years to come, he was to violate every one of these conditions. This treaty, and Muawiyah's easy acceptance of its conditions, represents the final proof, if any is needed, that Muawiyah's battle had been for the caliphate, and not for the purpose of "righting" any wrong.

Treaty

Going back to Medina, Imam Hassan (AS) remained fa hful to the treaty, avoiding all involvement in the political field-an avoidance that would later be used by his enemies to create a malicious lie against him. But even in this quiescent condition, he was seen as a threat by Muawiyah, for the latter wanted to appoint his son Yazid as his successor.

Muawiyah was already 58 years old when he took over the caliphate, while Imam Hassan (AS) was only 38 years old; as things stood, Muawiyah had very little hope that he could live longer than the Imam. On the other hand, so long as Imam Hassan (AS) was alive there was no way that Muawiyah could compel people to pay allegiance to Yazid, for that would be a blatantly obvious violation of the treaty.

Aware of this, Imam Hassan (AS) took a number of precautions against any possible attacks on his life; in this way, at least two attempts to poison him failed. However, the third time, poison administered through the connivance of his wife Ju'da (who had been promised a large sum of money by Muawiyah) did its tragic job, and the Imam was martyred on the 28th of Safar, 49 A.H., some eight years after the signing of the treaty.

But the worse was yet to come; so much had the times changed, and so deep had the corruption of wealth spread, that even the funeral of Imam Hassan (AS) was not allowed to be conducted in peace. And soon after the martyrdom, Muawiyah's historians began the task of defiling the memory of the Imam, rewriting history to suit the needs of the Bani Umayya. The resulting misconceptions and outright lies soon became accepted dogma among those opposed to the Ahl al-Bayt, and still echo today, disguised as "truth" and presented as "impartial".

Imam Hassan (AS), Manifestation of Divine Blessing

Tehran Times Service

Tomorrow, Safar 28, marks the sorrowful martyrdom anniversary of the second Imam of the Infallible Household of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S), Imam Hassan (AS), the eldest child of the first Imam Hazarat Ali ibn Abi Talib (AS) and the Prophet's daughter Hazrat Fatimah Zahra (SA).

Like all other imams from Hazrat Ali (AS) to Hazrat Mahdi (AS), the second Imam possessed all the lofty characteristics God had blessed them with. The Prophet loved his grandson greatly, saying: "Whoever loves Hassan or Hussein (the third Imam), has loved me and those who harm these two, have harmed me."

Prophet Mohammad also used to say: "Hassan and Hussein are masters of the youth of paradise... These two grandsons of mine are Imams (divine leaders)," whether they adopt a non-war stance (like Imam Hassan who later signed the famous conditional peace treaty) or draw the sword to fight (just as the history later witnessed Imam Hussein at Karbala).

Hazrat Fatimah once visited her father with her two children and asked for her father's blessings for his grandsons. Replied the Prophet (S): As for Hassan, he has my generosity and bravery."

> I hope that I shall be always with God's praise and kindness. I am the sincerest of God's creatures in giving advice to them.

Before concluding his conditional peace treaty with the contemporary adversary, Muawiyah, Imam Hassan had addressed a gathering of people, saying: "By God, I hope that I shall always be with God's praise and kindness. I am the sincerest of God's creatures in giving advice to them.

"I have not become one who bears malice to any Muslim, nor one who wishes evil or misfortune for him. Indeed what you dislike about unity is better for you than what you like about division. I see what is better for you than you see for yourselves.

"Therefore do not oppose my commands and do not reject my judgement. May God forgive both me and you and may He guide me and you to that in which there is love and satisfaction."

Imam Hassan abandoned his right to the worldly caliphate, which was much inferior to his supreme divine position as Imam of the Muslims, and abdicated conditionally in order to preserve Islam, and unity between Muslims, as the unique circumstances of his period required.

> I am the grandson of the one who brought the good news. I am the grandson of the warner. I am the grandson of the man who, with God's permission, summoned the people to God.

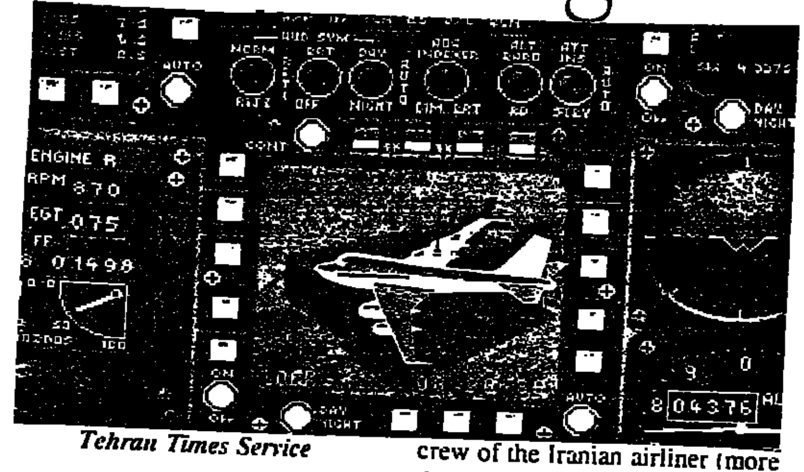
Imam Hassan sacrificed what he could even though he had earlier said: "I am the grandson of the one who brought the good news. I am the grandson of the warner. I am the grandson of the man who, with God's permission, summoned the people to God. I am the grandson of the light which shone out to the world. I am the House from whom God has sent away abomination and whom God has purified thoroughly. I am of the House for whom God has required love in His Book, when God, the Most High, said: Say, I do not ask you for any reward except love for my kin. Whoever earns good, will increase good for himself (III:3). The good is love for us, the House."

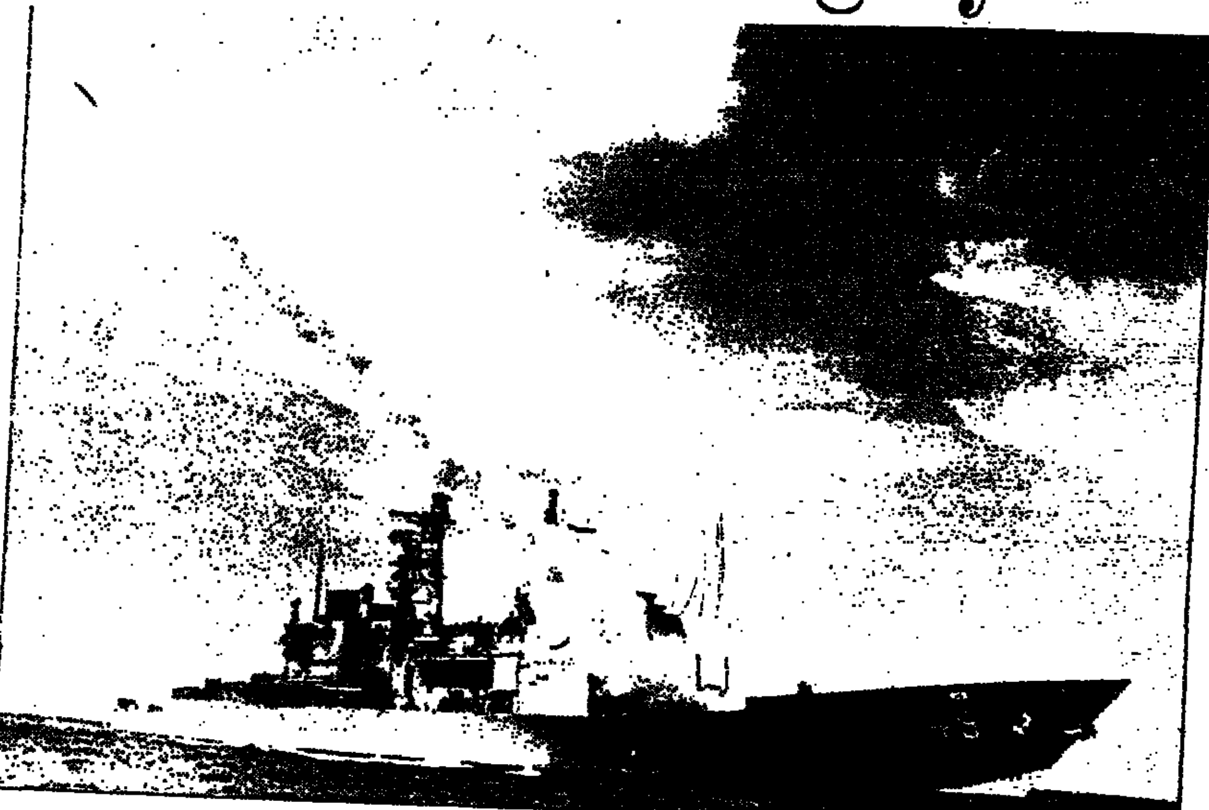
The second Imam was born on Ramazan 15, 624 A.H., his Imamate extending to 10 years, and was martyred on Safar 28, at the age of 47. He was buried in Medinah.

TEHRAN TIMES

JULY 3, 1997

Downing Iranian Airbus, Brutal Act of Savagery





Tehran Times Service

Downing the Iranian Airbus Flight 655, on July 3, 1988 by the U.S. Navy will never be forgotten.

Shooting down a civilian airliner, no matter of the nationality of its passengers and crew, should be rejected by strongest possible voice.

Not only to Iranian or Muslims, but to every human being, the killing of 290 passengers and the crew of the Iranian airliner (more than 100 of whom were women and children), is a heinous crime. What makes it worst is that the USS Vincennes deliberately shot down the Iranian Airbus.

The move took place at the height of the tensions during the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran by the U.S. Navy to tilt the military balance in favor of Iraq.

En route from Bandar-Abbas to Dubai, the Iran Air Flight 655 was flying within the international corridor at 14,000 feet altitude over Iran's airspace when it was mercilessly shot down by two American missiles.

The act, clearly a violation of all intentionally accepted rules and regulations, went to be unique in its kind throughout the aviation history.

In committing such a heinous crime the U.S. enjoyed the support of certain international organizations. However, in another incident which occurred on February 24, 1996, in which Cuban fighters shot down two American planes flying in Cuba's airspace, the U.S. asked the Intentional Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to condemn Havana's act.

The U.S. statesmen presented the ICAO Council with a draft resolution calling for condemnation of Havana for downing the planes in Intentional airspace. At the same time Cuba stated that the U.S. planes had violated its territorial airspace and that the U.S. itself should be condemned for using civilian planes for military purposes.

Overlooking the fact, the ICAO Council did not condemn either party and called for a fact-finding mission to investigate the issue.

State-Sponsored Terrorism

Tehran Times Service

July 3, 1988 will live in the collective memory of Iranians as a grim reminder of the U.S. aggression against inbocent Iranian civilians. It was on this day 9 years ago that the American navy cruiser, Vincennes, illegally entered our territorial waters and, ignoring all internationally accepted conventions, shot down an Iranian commercial plane with 290 passengers on board. The Airbus had just taken off from Bandar Abbas and was headed for Dubai in the United Arab Emirates when it was struck by a guided missile fired from the Vincennes. All 290 civilian passengers were martyred.

This brutal U.S. act of savagery against innocent civilians in the Persian Gulf typifies that country's lack of respect for all international organizations and their conventions. It is incumbent upon the United Nations and all other international bodies charged with defending and upholding human rights to make the American government accountable for the aggressions it commits against the citizens of other countries.

> **The brutal U.S. act of savagery against innocent civilians in the Persian Gulf typifies that country's lack of respect for all international organizations and their convensions.**



For a long time now, the United States has practiced the opposite of state-sponsored terrorism and acwhat it preaches. Washington portrays itself as the champion of human rights and an opponent of cuses other governments of committing terrorist acts. But the fact is that the U.S. is the worst offender when it comes to state-sponsored terrorism. Some recent examples of American state-sponsored terrorist acts are its military invasions of Grenada, Panama, Somalia and the Persian Gulf.

In the July 3, 1988 incident, the United States is guilty of at least two counts of state-sponsored terrorism:

- Illegally entering the territorial waters of a sovereign state, which the U.S. has admitted.
- Downing a commercial jetliner with a guided missile with prior knowledge that the target plane was not military. Furthermore, the United States is guilty of encouraging and glorifying state-sponsored terrorism by awarding a medal to the captain of the cruiser Vincennes.

By committing such flagrant violations of international conventions, the United States is setting precedents which will inevitably come home to roost.

The Islamic Republic believes that ultimately justice will prevail, and sincerely hopes that international judiciary organizations will impose just and fitting penalties on the United States for its barbaric aggression against Iran's innocent civilians. Refusal to shoulder responsibility by the international organizations will undoubtedly convince the world that these organizations lack the moral conviction and intestinal fortitude to carry out their duties.

A Medal of Courage for a Heinous Crime

Tehran Times Service

Today is the ninth anniversary of the Iranian Airbus shootdown by the USS Vincennes. ninth years ago, as 290 innocent crewmembers and passengers left Bandar Abbas for Dubai, they were burned alive by 2 rockets and fell into the sea.

During these nine years everything has been revealed. Today, no one doubts that the U.S. government acted deliberately in this catastrophe, a catastrophe which has no match in history.

We did not expect the American president not to offer a medal to the commander of the Vincennes for killing 65 innocent children. We did not complain to International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for such an indifferent attitude toward this catastrophe.

> **Today no one doubts that the U.S. government acted deliberately in this catastrophe, a catastrophe which has no match in history.**

Rather, we do ask the conscience of the world whether revenge against Iranian soldiers' resistance in the face of aggression and dominance ought to be/the shooting down of a passenger plane? And whether it is worthy of a superpower which, in the support of an aggressive regime such as Iraq, far from its own borders, should act so weakly?

Would such a crash have any effect but to spread the message of the oppression of Iranians to the world?

If the plane had not been Iranian, would the crime have been considered so small? If an American or Israeli had been among the passengers, would the case have been closed so simply?

All the answers are summarized thus: discrimination, dominance, and tyranny.

You, the defenders of liberty, rise and reform the present state of the world. Substitute these ugly pages of contemporary history with humaneness, justice, and love. Put behind the era of dominance, the law of the jungle, and instead pursue mutual understanding and peaceful coexistence. Let us cleanse the world political scene of evil.



هكذا من الأصل

Patterns of Consumption and Cultural Identity

Tehran Times Service

The 18th century is known as "the age of enlightenment," and it was in this century that the Industrial Revolution began in Europe. The doctrine of laissez faire became the backbone of economic systems during the period. Confronted with saturating domestic markets, merchants had no choice but to turn to foreign countries to obtain raw materials

Patterns of consumption cannot be separated from value systems which indicate the true nature and identity of a person and a society.

and to absorb their products. To counter the negative effect of foreign patronage, governments resorted to decreasing the taxes they imposed on exported goods that were destined for markets in Third World countries.

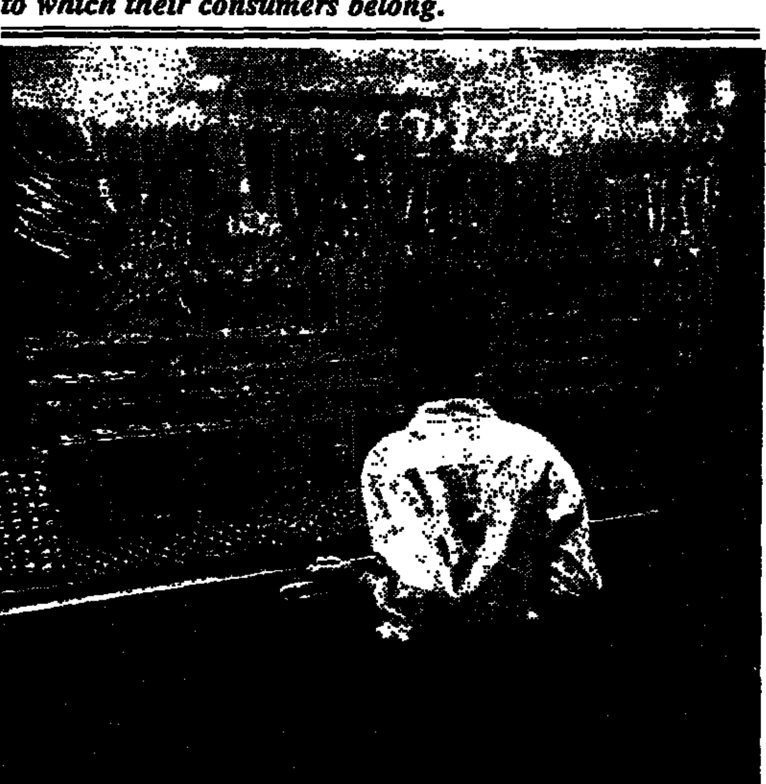
Colonialism and military attacks on countries that practiced it took into account the important responsibility of opening countries to trade. Tradition, like a thick shell intended to protect local products, taxed the experience of countries and caused numerous problems for neocolonialism.

The first measure conceived to remove the barrier was to find a way of penetrating into the shell and recognizing Third World nations' traditions and customs. Propaganda was believed to be able to remove the barrier. Citizens were taught to believe that whatever they have are less attractive than imported goods. By understanding the real nature and character of peoples and by resorting to propaganda the task of gaining the acceptance of products and ideas was won.



Photo: Abbas Kowsari

Goods and services have some coded signs and they are regarded as indicators and symbols of the social stratum to which their consumers belong.



The first obvious result is that individuals lost their identity, giving rise to what is known as the "crisis of identity." The average person, in search of an identity, looks to the mass of propaganda materials, including advertisements, introducing new products. When the problem expanded so as to cast doubts on certain aspects of a people's culture the case became much more disastrous and tragic.

Patterns of consumption cannot be separated from value systems which indicate the true nature and identity of a person and a society. Although Third World countries' choices of consumption have been influenced by different sources, especially foreign sources, they are indicative of the nations' ethics.

Without ignoring the profitability aspect (including the satisfaction of spiritual needs) of social consumption processes, their symbolic aspects, that is, their social meaning should also be taken into consideration. Goods and services have some coded signs and they are regarded as indicators and symbols of the social stratum to which their consumers belong. Hence, a precise study on the factors that influence transnational companies in their choice of patterns of consumption are important.

Consumer goods and consuming services are matters defined by social codes. Consumption's domain is an important realm indicating consumers' morals and accepted values. The consumption symbol is a good indicator of cultural level. By having access to special goods distinguishing particular social levels people can identify their kind of society, status and dignity and that of others. Each product or good accomplishes a distinct social function, and are indicators of characteristics and identities of individuals who use them. In fact, distinguishing individuals according to the goods which they use is reminiscent of the way social strata are distinguished. On the other hand, goods and objects may be used as means of escaping from reality; by resorting to them people can create a new world for themselves. Dreams and desires follow a person's needs and they manifest themselves in the goods or objects which he acquires. A person's image of himself is largely a reflection of his needs, fears and imaginations as are the behavior patterns which characterize a society.

Goods and objects may be used as means of escaping from reality; by resorting to them people can create a new world for themselves.

The conflict between ego and self-image, that is, between motives and values of consumption in developed countries arises from a person's inability to meet his consumption demands. People usually try to overcome their feelings of insufficiency, inadequacy or apathy in the affairs of society by increasing their demands for material things.

Furthermore, a person, in efforts to assert his personality traits, ego, and role in association with others, resorts to some products, marks and images which best portray himself.

Patterns of consumption in all cases should be in conformity with a person's cultural identity. Of course we should pay attention to different patterns of consumption that are due to a lack of homogeneity in the cultural-social system.

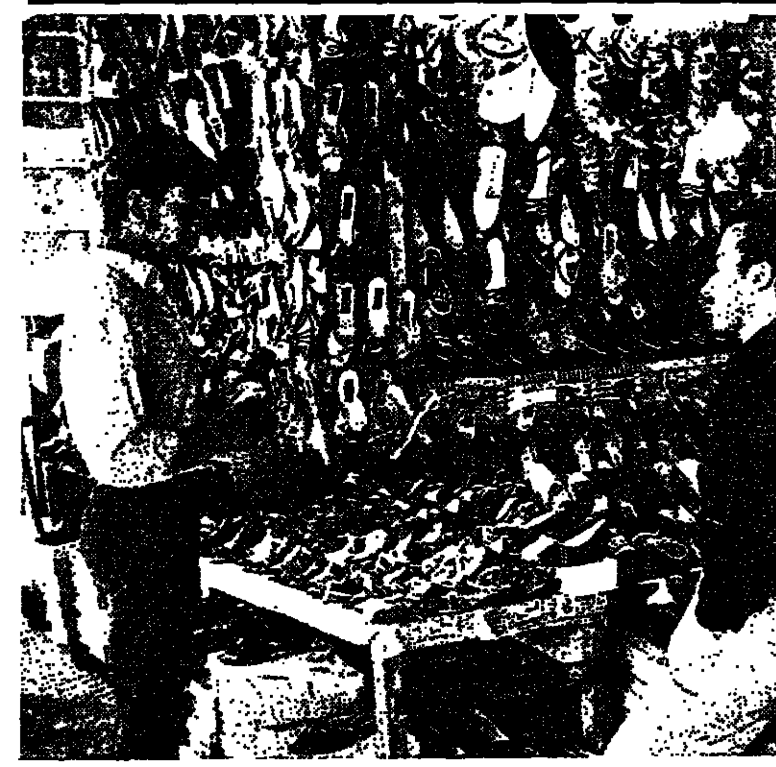
Introducing and expanding modernization through the process of decoding of needs and desires and recoding them can lead to social dynamism in matters of consumption. In this context, communication patterns are in direct relation with consumption patterns. On the one hand, consumption pattern is the result of a collection of messages and signs which show people's attitudes and, on the other hand, consumption itself is a communication pattern between man and society and between man and his ego.

In general, consumption patterns are reflections of people's attitudes, traditional or modernized, inherited or imported, and of their desires and wants. If transnational companies possess the means of creation of consumption patterns in developing countries, they can be said to penetrate people's minds, desires and dreams.

Patterns of consumption in all cases should be in conformity with a person's cultural identity.



A person's image of himself is largely a reflection of his needs, fears and imaginations as are the behavior patterns which characterize a society.



Creation of Consumption Patterns and Adoption of Culture

The role played by transnational companies in the creation of consumption patterns reveals two conflicting realities. On the one hand, the companies support the development of prevailing consumption patterns in Third World countries and, on the other hand, the companies try to replace traditional products with new ones. The techniques they employ to ensure their success in their trading activities have left their mark on every consumption structure established in developing countries.

The driving force behind trade success and individual effort in work is the reward of being able to acquire consumer goods of one's choice, and the impetus it gives to production is a sign of economic development. Hence, by encouraging such a policy, the state of the country's economy wields tremendous power on its people. Transnational companies, due to their economic influence, are instrumental in harmonizing relations between Third World countries and differing economic systems. The value of individuals under any economic system is measured in terms of the goods, services and

Transnational companies have always been active agents of global change which pay no attention to the necessities of national independence and values.

social position that he patronizes. The rationality manifests itself in various ways; in communication, broadcasting messages through the mass media has an effective role.

The increasing tendency to adopt the Western style of living and consumer products leave many non-Western peoples calling for more access to commercial services. The effect has been an erosion of traditional values and a change in accepted individual and social behavior. As the process of damage on social structures accelerates, the person is gradually led to focus his attention on the world around him and what it has to offer in exchange, i.e., he becomes a "homo consumens."

Efforts at selling a particular culture by the mass media can be so intense that in some cases tradition is considered an obstacle and slogans decrying a society as "lagging behind" or calling for modernization and development create mass appeal.

It follows that transnational companies, by introducing Western consuming habits in developing countries, are in effect calling for people to undergo a process of cultural extroversion. There is no doubt that transnational companies wield a very strong influence on people's needs, desires and wants, directing them toward their own products. If consumption patterns are a reflection of people's opinions and their wants, the creation of consumption patterns are a special form of social-cultural extroversion on the part of Third World nations and a means to separate nations from their traditional beliefs and roots.

As a whole transnational companies have always been active agents of global change which pay no attention to the necessities of national independence and values.

Huseinov an Art Lover

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The following is the text of an interview between *the Tehran Times* and the famous Turkmen painter Husein Huseinov, which was held in Ashkhabad on May 12, 1997.

Q: Would you please tell us more about yourself?

A: I was born in Ashkhabad in 1951. I am married and have a daughter and two sons. I completed my studies in the primary and secondary schools in Ashkhabad and at the same time I attended the school of painting for 12 years. Then I went to Moscow at the age of 19. There, I studied painting for seven years at the School of Fine Arts of Moscow University. The admission to this university is very difficult and some candidates have to wait for some 10 years before being admitted. The school does not issue any specific degrees. It only gives the graduates a diploma allowing them to work.

When I was about to leave Ashkhabad for Moscow, my mother who taught physics in high school did not want me to leave her. Therefore, she locked me in. But my father who is a well-known surgeon said, "Let him go! He cannot stand it there and will return."

My only occupation is painting. I paint for 12 hours seven days a week. From Moscow University, I also received the diploma in making up and setting decoration for the cinema. Thus, I worked for a while in Turkmenistan as a make-up artist and setting decorator, but later gave it up. I worked on the setting decoration in 13 films, one of which titled 'Uphringing of a Man' won gold medals in six international festivals.

I work here in a studio that is given by the Turkmenistan Painters Society to prominent painters. I do not pay any rent for it.

I received my training in the school of painting of professor Boris Nemenshki, which is based on realism. By the way, the professor has recently invited me to exhibit together in the largest art gallery in Moscow in the next winter. But I personally favor mystic realism because I believe photography can easily replace realistic painting. The school of mystic realism, which is manifested in my works, goes beyond realism into contemplative notions and combines realistic phenomena with rational concepts.

In addition to my mother tongue, which is the Turkmen language, I have good command of Russian. I also understand a little English and Tajik.

Q: What made you become a painter, and when did you first start painting?

A: I believe anybody has his own fate and that I was destined to become a painter. Besides, when I was seven years old, once I found a scrap of paper in the street with a nice painting on it. I wished I could make a painting like that. The same evening, I copied the painting.

Some of my classmates went to painting classes. I also enrolled in those classes. They gave up the course after a month, but I have continued it until now!

Q: What are the main themes of your paintings?

A: Actually, I do not have any specific themes. Usually, something in reality attracts my attention. That gives rise to some concepts in my mind. Then, I transfer my ideas to the canvas. My paintings include scenery, portraits, surroundings and even abstract notions that hardly conform to perceptible things.

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: I love painting and intend to continue it as long as I am alive. It is in fact the fruit of my life. Of course the future cannot be clearly foreseen. Therefore, I may do something that I cannot think of now. I have devoted all my energies to painting for 38 years. Nothing can form a wall between me and my paintings.

Q: How many exhibitions of your works have you already held and where were they held?

A: I have held so many exhibitions in Moscow and Ashkhabad that I do not really know their number. But in Germany, France and Cuba I have held exhibitions once in each.

Q: I have heard some of your paintings are hanging on the walls of the Turkmenistan's new presidential palace.

A: I made five paintings ordered by the French contractor who built the presidentia. palace. There were 14 other painters who had also received orders for paintings, and theirs were also accepted.

I spent one year of hard work on these five paintings.

Q: How did you get familiar with the Iranians?

A: The answer can be divided into two parts. The first part is related to my childhood. I remember my relatives used to talk about Iran quite a lot. That made me interested in Iran and prompted me to have more knowledge of that country.

When I grew older, I saw some books on the Iranian miniature in the bookstores, which added to my interest in Iran. Then, I got hold of the poetry books of Ferdowsi, Sa'di, Jami, Hafez and Mowlavi, which were translated into Russian. I have read Ferdowsi's epic, *Shahnameh* (Book of Kings), over 20 times, and each time I read it, I learned something new. This increased my enthusiasm, so much so that I fell in love with the Iranian culture.

On the first death anniversary of Imam Khomeini, the government of Turkmenistan sent a large group of Turkmen authors and professors, artists, cameramen and photographers to Iran to participate in the ceremonies. I was the only painter in the group. During that visit, the only Iranian city I visited was Tehran.

The next year, we produced a film titled 'Burning'. It was also screened at a film festival in Iran and it won a prize in Berlin. Some scenes of the film were acted in Iran in the city of Quchan, Khorasan Province. While producing the film, I was fascinated by the traditional attractions of the Iranian culture. That is why I decided to make a trip to Iran on my own and paint pictures.

I went to the Iranian Consulate and told them about my idea. They warmly welcomed it and issued a visa for me. First I went to Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Province. There, I was welcomed by the officials of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. I asked them to arrange my trip to Shiraz and Esfahan. It was in the autumn of two years ago. I had a hard time on my visit because I did not know the Farsi language and had no friends either.

The reason why I visited Iran alone was that I wanted to get acquainted with the Iranian life directly, not to be influenced by the views of others. I wanted to get familiar with the Iranian culture, the ancient Iranian culture. But I believe I have succeeded in getting familiar with only a small part of the Iranian culture. Thus, I think even a lifetime will not suffice to get familiar with all aspects of the Iranian culture.

What mainly attracted my attention was the benevolence of the Iranians. I did not find them to be crooks; instead, they were very kind and honest. But for their kindness, I would have had a hard time with no friends and companies in Iran. Now that I look back, I recall lots of pleasant memories, thanks to the hospitality of the Iranians.

I remember when I was painting on the sidewalks in Esfahan, the people would not pass by me unless they asked me for permission. Also, while passing by, they admired my works by saying 'Bah Bah' (bravo)! They were not indifferent to my paintings.

The outcome of my 30-day visit to Iran was some 45 paintings, which I am going to exhibit in Niavaran Art Gallery in July. Besides those, I painted other pictures that I gave as presents to certain individuals. I spent only 17 days on painting and the other 13 days were spent on going from place to place.

The Esfahan residents were very kind to me. They asked me where I would paint the next day and I told them. Then when I went to the place the next day, I saw them sitting there waiting for me with their vacuum bottles of tea at hand. They liked to buy my paintings, but I wanted to take them to Turkmenistan. At times, I offered to give them some of my paintings, which they eagerly accepted!

In Shiraz, a tourist guide brought tourists with different nationalities to see my paintings every day. He urged me to sell him a painting, but I refused to do so. When he saw my reluctance, he took all his money out of his pocket and told me to take as much as I wanted. When I saw so much kindness and eagerness, I gave him the painting free.

Q: How did the Iranian artistic circles get familiar with you?

A: During my trip to Iran two years ago, once I was painting near Imam Mosque in Esfahan. I saw some other painters also working with an old artist supervising their work. The painters called the old man 'master'. After a while, the old man brought me a cup of tea and told me, "Please have it, master!" This was the first time some Iranians got to know me.

I kept in touch with the Iranians even when I went back home. Now I have been invited by the Iranian cultural attache in Ashkhabad to exhibit my works in Niavaran Art Gallery in Tehran.

Q: Which cities in Iran did you visit?

A: I started up with Darreh-Gaz. Then I visited Mashhad, Es-

(Contd on Pg. 14)



"Hindrance", This painting shows three old clay pots in different sizes. The pots imply a family. The thorny flowers indicate the sharp language of the mother. The rope coming out of the small pot and twining around all three pots is a token of the love for the child which keeps the family together and acts as a hindrance to its disintegration. There is also a black-and-white rope in the painting which stands for a snake, which means that good and evil things are found together.



... The other painting is a picture of Persepolis (ruined capital of ancient Persia, about 35 miles northeast of Shiraz). I made its sketch under the hot sun. It was very hot, but I worked lovingly for some two hours. When I got through it, I saw a small pond nearby next to a water pump, which was in the shade of some trees. I was feeling [illegible] I started drinking the [illegible] but and also plunging my head [illegible]



هكذا من الأصل



International Spectrum

...Glance at International Events



Tehran Times Weekend Issue

THU. JULY 3, 1997; TIR 12, 1376; SAFAR 27, 1418



Iran Spectrum

A Glance at National Events

The World This Week

...LD IN HIGHLIGHT

...uesday, June 25

...opeans Criticize ...S. on Pollution Targets



...ffed by Washington at ...e global summit, Euro-...aders took their case to an-...s they tried to get the United ... accept their targets for re-... greenhouse gases.

...PEC Ministers ...scuss Falling Oil Price

...s OPEC ponders the recent ...plunge in oil prices, Persian ... heavyweights Saudi Arabia ...an will urge most of the oth-... cut back on their excess ...ction.

...Most Bombs Used by Israel Came ...rom U.S. Army



...ost of the bombs and air-...to-ground missiles fired by ... in Lebanon last year were ...to the United States Armed ...s and not Israel.

...dnesday, June 25

...EC Begins Talks ...o Lift Oil Price

...PEC began talks on produc-...tion levels in Vienna with ... linchpin Saudi Arabia reit-...g that it wants to see higher ...ices.

...er 200 Killed in ...atest Sri Lanka Rebel Attack

...ore than 200 soldiers and ...rebels were killed in the battle in northern Sri Lanka, ... troops are fighting Tamil separatists in an attempt to a key highway, the Defence ...try said.

...ursday, June 26

Six Dead in ...ntserrat Volcano

...escue workers found the ...bodies of six people killed in ...dly blast of hot gases and from a volcano on the Carib-... island of Montserrat.

Friday, June 27

Congo's Opposition Leader Freed

Congo's main opposition leader was released from custody after a 10-hour detention in which he said police ordered him to abandon politics.

Tajik President, Opposition Sign Peace Accord

Tajikistan's President Emomali Rakhmonov and Islamic opposition leader said Abdullah Nuri signed a UN-backed peace accord at the Kremlin ending five years of civil war.

Saturday, June 28

New Rulers Welcome PLA Deployment as HK Braces for Handover

The future rulers of Hong Kong welcomed the early deployment of thousands of Chinese troops backed by armored vehicles, as the territory braced for the change of sovereignty.

Earth Summit Ends Without Agreement on Global Warming, Other Issues

The Earth Summit ended in failure with a North-South rift and EU-U.S. tensions preventing agreement on major environmental issues such as global warming and forest protection.

Afghan Forces Close Net on Taliban Enclave



Opposition forces are closing the net around the Taliban enclave of Baghlan and Kunduz cities in northern Afghanistan, a spokesman said.

Clashes Erupt Over Disrespect Towards Holy Prophet

Violent protests erupted in the West Bank town of Al-Khalil after Palestinians accused Jewish settlers of plastering Arab shops with offending pictures of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (S).

Sunday, June 29

Hong Kong Passes From British Colony to China



At the stroke of midnight, Hong Kong passed from British crown colony to a part of China, ending a 156-year interlude.

Voting in Albania Gets Off to Good Start

Voting in troubled Albania got underway with officials reporting encouraging turnout in several parts of the country though isolated problems had emerged in some areas.

May Election Set for Chinese-Rule Hong Kong

On the eve of Chinese rule Hong Kong's future Chief Executive Tung Chee-Hwa set a timetable for elections and China's President Jiang Zemin pledged to uphold human rights and freedom.

Monday, June 30

Curtain Falls on Empire as PLA Moves In

Under a tropical downpour at sunset, Britain base farewell to Hong Kong with Scottish bagpipers and Chinese dragon dancers, while China's President Jiang Zemin arrived to take back the colony.

Negotiations Begins Despite Fighting in Afghanistan

Afghanistan's Taleban militia and opposition forces were fighting around the northern Afghan capital of Kunduz but new negotiations have started, a spokesman said.

Berisha Concedes Defeat in Albania

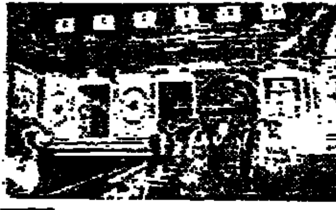


Albanian President Sali Berish conceded defeat to the opposition centerleft in weekend elections designed to end four months of chaos in the Balkans country.

IRAN IN HIGHLIGHT

Tuesday, June 25

1st Vice-President Opens Golestan Palace Complex



First Vice-President Hassan Habibi inaugurated the Golestan Place Complex.

Yazdi Condemns U.S. Resolution on Qods

Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, the head of the Judiciary, at a press conference regretted that the rights of Palestinians are being violated and no body is accountable for it.

Khatami to Discuss His Cabinet With Majlis

President-elect Mohammad Khatami in a letter to the Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Noori announced his readiness to discuss his cabinet with Majlis.

Wednesday, June 25

President Calls On Officials to Prepare Ground for Progress of the Talented



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, called on officials to prepare the ground for growth and development of talented people and to use them as a property for the progress of the society.

People in Iran Mourn Imam Hussein's Arba'een

Islamic Iran mourned the 'Arbaeen' or the traditional 40th day of the anniversary of the Karbala tragedy.

Thursday, June 26

Quake Damages 5,000 Houses



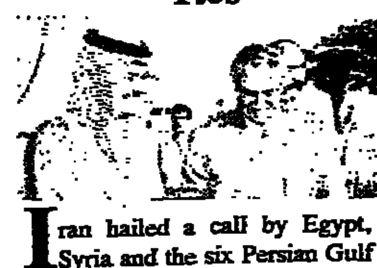
A morning quake has damaged about 5,000 houses at 50 villages in the Qa'en region in eastern Iran, deputy governor of the provincial city of Qa'en Mohammad-Hassan Esmaeelnejad said.

Friday, June 27

Russia to Expand Relations With Iran

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin and submitted the message of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to him.

Iran Hails Arab Call For Friendly Ties



Iran hailed a call by Egypt, Syria and the six Persian Gulf monarchies for friendlier ties with the Islamic Republic, saying together they could take on Israel.

Saturday, June 28

Ayatollah Beheshti Was Architect of Iran's Judiciary



Addressing a number of judicial officials and families of those martyred on Tir 7 (June 28, 1981), the Leader paid tribute to the former Chief Justice Martyr Ayatollah Beheshti and described him as the architect of the Judiciary of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Families of 7th of Tir Martyrs Call on President



President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani received the families of the martyrs of June 28, 1980 (7th of Tir) and said the blood of these martyrs is the most inspiring evidence of the righteousness of the Islamic Revolution.

Sunday, June 29

Regional Seminar on Persian Gulf Opens

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati stressed that the Islamic Republic believes in friendly, healthy and constructive relations with the Persian Gulf littoral states.

Khaibar Maneuver Starts in Persian Gulf Waters

Specialized Joint Sea-Ground Khaibar Maneuver started in the Persian Gulf waters with the cooperation of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Naval Forces and the Islamic Republic Army.

Monday, June 30

President Inaugurates Middle East's Biggest University Complex

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani opened the Islamic Azad University's Science and Research Unit, the biggest in the Middle East region.

World Famous Persian Rug Returned to Iran



One of the most famous Persian rugs which was illegally taken out of Iran three years ago was returned to Iran and delivered to the Cultural Heritage Organization.

When Age Catches Up

Look in the mirror, and wind the clock forward. How do you think you'll look at 60... at 80?



We'd all like to know how we'll look in the future, but assume it's a case of wait and see. However, some things can be predicted. Your hair, for instance, will go grey and your eyesight deteriorate — the "near point" at which your eyes can focus lengthens with time. But with careful maintenance, you can keep your body and brain running at a very acceptable level nearly all your life. Here's what your body will be doing at the decade landmarks.

Age 20

Enjoy it while it lasts. Your skin is wrinkle-free and eyesight, hearing and other senses in top condition. Heart, lungs and muscles operate at 100 percent efficiency. If you're male, you're at your mental and physical peak — although sexually you're already in decline. Sex drive and performance are at their peak in mid-adolescence. Near point: 4 inches

Age 30

Wrinkles are appearing around your eyes, mouth and brow. If you're a worrier, you're probably well on the way to a furrowed brow — it takes 200,000 frowns to make a forehead wrinkle. You might have a few white hairs, as pigment-producing cells in hair follicles start to close down. But your internal organs should still be in good shape, and there should be no obvious fall-off in physical and sexual activity. Near point: 5 inches

Age 40

Wrinkles have probably begun to invade other parts of your face, such as the space between the eyebrows. If you're one of the 7.4 million men in the UK who experience premature balding, you'll be losing hair at the temples and the crown (though dark-haired men who go white early on are often spared balding). If you have become less active, you'll have noticed and accumulation of body fat around the waist. Near point: 6 inches

Age 50

Ageing is more noticeable now. Bags under the eyes and a double chin result from loss of skin elasticity, and loss of fat beneath the skin. Wrinkles appear on the chin and bridge of the nose. Most people have to use reading glasses by now because their lens muscles can no longer focus on near objects. Muscles have only about 80 percent of their youthful strength, and heart and lungs are slightly less efficient. Unless you've been training hard, you'll notice the difference. Near point: 19 inches

Age 60

Wrinkles appear on the upper lip, and you lose more hair. You'll have noticed a decline in sexual performance over the past few years. Testosterone levels fall, and sperm count decreases. The prostrate gland enlarges. Near point: 39 inches

Age 70

Nose and ears get longer and the contours of the bones of the face become more visible as the skin continues to get thinner. Lungs, heart and muscles continue to weaken. You may have joint problems, which restrict mobility, and marked hearing loss at high frequencies. If you're in reasonable health, you can still enjoy sex, food and drink. There's evidence that enjoyment of sensual pleasure increases with age. Near point: 69 inches

Age 80

Hearing loss levels off, but lung and muscle strength are about half what they were at 20. It may take up to half an hour to get an erection. The number of contractions during ejaculation are down to one or two, and the semen goes about a quarter as far as it did in you 20s. But remember, the oldest known father was 94. Near point: 79 inches

Entertaining in Style

Scandinavian Apple Charlotte

You will need...	3 oz. butter
	8 oz.. fresh breadcrumbs
	2 oz. demerara sugar
	1 1/2 lb. cooking apple
	1 lemon
Preparation time	2 tablespoons water
20 minutes	2 oz. castor sugar
	1/4 pint double cream coarsely grated chocolate

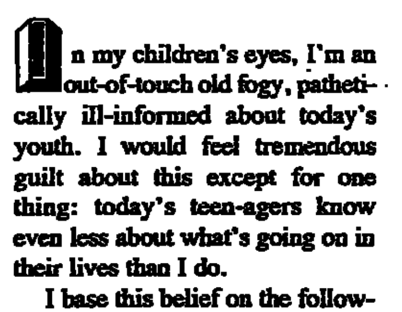
Melt butter in a frying pan. Add breadcrumbs and fry slowly until crisp and golden, stirring frequently. When they are ready, remove from heat and blend in the demerara sugar. In another pan put peeled, cored and sliced apples, lemon juice, water and castor sugar. Cover and cook until the apples are soft, then mash to a smooth puree. Leave to cool. Put half the cooled apple puree into a 1 1/2 to 2 pint glass serving dish. Spread half the breadcrumbs on top. Repeat with a layer of apple and breadcrumbs. Leave to chill before serving. Just before serving spread or pipe lightly whipped cream on top of pudding and sprinkle with coarsely grated chocolate. Serves 4

QUICK TIP

When you have too much bread in the house make fresh breadcrumbs. These keep in a polythene bag in the refrigerator for a week or more. Use for Queen of Puddings, hot apple charlotte and not forgetting the old favorite, treacle tart.

What Do Kids Know?

... And Why Won't they Tell Us?



In my children's eyes, I'm an out-of-touch old fogy, pathetically ill-informed about today's youth. I would feel tremendous guilt about this except for one thing: today's teen-agers know even less about what's going on in their lives than I do.

I base this belief on the following conversation, which takes place in thousands of American homes every day:

Parent: How was school today?

Child: Fine.

Parent: What did you do?

Child: Nothing.

Parent: Do you have any homework?

Child: I don't know.

Ask your child about any subject directly involving him or her and you'll get one of three responses: (a) "Fine," (b) "Nothing," (c) "I don't know."

If your child is in a particularly talkative mood, and by some miracle is not on the phone, you'll get all three. Otherwise, your mere existence will be deemed too annoying to acknowledge, in which case your child will pretend not to hear you.

Besides, kids are always listening to mind-numbing music played at decibel levels high enough to blow out windows, so your child may not be ignoring you. He or she may simply be deaf.

Still, it's alarming to know that even though everything is "fine" absolutely "nothing" happens in school. If this pattern continues for 20 or 30 years, when our kids are grown up, we may hear this:

Reporter: Mr. President, how did the summit go today?

President: Fine.

Reporter: What did you discuss?

President: Nothing.

Reporter: Does this mean that the world is on the brink of nuclear disaster?

President: I don't know.

How can our kids have absolutely no idea what's going on in their lives? In recent weeks I've asked my daughters the following simple questions: What time does your field hockey game start? How are you getting home from school? How are you? Who are you?

Each time, the response has been: "I don't know."

When I was a kid, things were different. If my parents asked me how school was, I would always say: "Great!" When they asked what I did in school, I would respond: "Stuff." When they asked if I had any homework, I answered: "No."

I lied, of course, but at least I lied creatively. And I always made it sound as if I were actually doing something, worthless though it often was. I never said: "I don't know."

Another irritating response today's parents get is: "Nobody." For example, if the phone rings and your teenager answers it and stays on the line for 45 minutes and eventually, perhaps beeause of a house fire, has to hang up, and you ask who called, the response you will almost always get is: "Nobody."

And the really scary part is that your child's friend will say the same thing to his or her parents when they ask the same question. Maybe that's why some people grow up to be nobodies.

All I can say, parents, is that if you want to find out what's going on in your children's lives and you expect to get more than three words out of them, call them on the telephone.

(Courtesy the Stamford Advocate)

Answer to Last Week's PUZZLE

DOWN ON THE FARM

O	A	I	W	U	S	S	N	A	E	B	Y	O	S	C
W	P	O	R	W	R	I	P	U	S	O	A	I	B	R
U	L	K	A	K	W	S	I	I	Y	T	S	U	D	O
P	E	H	R	C	G	H	G	F	E	E	D	I	E	P
O	H	A	D	O	I	V	S	E	I	E	I	L	W	S
L	B	R	L	T	M	C	H	N	I	T	R	A	B	I
O	R	V	O	S	H	I	L	C	W	R	T	R	I	E
W	O	E	P	E	S	T	A	E	H	W	O	U	W	S
L	O	S	T	V	E	S	N	I	A	R	G	R	H	R
I	M	T	K	I	L	U	D	S	T	O	V	E	I	E
L	V	S	S	L	L	R	R	G	U	U	D	O	I	K
I	Y	M	P	A	I	L	A	G	S	C	E	N	I	C
V	E	O	I	U	D	M	I	E	U	S	I	E	A	I
N	U	C	W	U	E	A	D	R	A	H	C	R	O	H
A	N	I	M	A	L	S	W	I	B	A	L	L	E	C

PUZZLE

SIGN LANGUAGE

T	E	V	R	U	C	P	Y	R	E	P	P	I	L	S
S	L	O	D	R	A	V	E	L	U	O	B	I	E	N
S	T	Y	W	E	T	I	N	T	W	E	D	N	J	O
O	U	I	Q	T	V	D	O	C	N	R	O	Z	S	P
R	O	E	X	N	G	O	H	K	N	H	D	U	T	P
C	P	L	W	E	L	W	V	A	P	O	R	C	N	R
D	E	D	H	M	F	N	B	E	L	O	N	C	E	K
N	E	X	P	S	G	D	L	C	H	I	L	L	R	I
A	K	O	V	O	U	E	B	W	Y	W	G	H	R	N
T	T	I	W	E	T	P	A	I	N	T	A	C	O	G
S	R	P	C	Q	Z	I	F	O	T	B	O	L	F	L
I	T	C	U	T	T	B	S	L	O	W	G	B	K	C
X	A	J	E	L	R	E	E	U	N	E	V	A	T	Y
A	F	I	R	E	L	A	N	E	H	O	U	S	W	C
T	B	U	S	S	T	O	P	R	I	V	A	T	E	P

AVENUE	FOR RENT	STOP
BOULEVARD	HILL	TAXI STAND
BUS STOP	KEEP OUT	TELEPHONES
CROSS	NO PARKING	WAIT
CURVE	PRIVATE	WALK
DOWN	PULL	WET PAINT
ENTER	PUSH	YIELD
EXIT	SLIPPERY	
FIRE LANE	SLOW	

Feature

Facets of Countries

Spotlight: *South Korea*

Chemical-Free, Pond Snail Rice Cultivation



Farmer Cho'oe (foreground), enjoying a lunch break beside his rice paddies.

The snail agriculture technology discovered by Ch'oe may be explained, in short, by saying that the snails cultivate the fields.

The rice plants which are about to come into grain look especially fresh. Looking closely, one can see locusts, which have been on the verge of extinction for the last several years because of the overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and the red eggs of pond snails hanging in clusters. In the irrigation ditches, one can easily catch tiny carps, loaches, mud snails, and diving beetles. The ecosystem is full of life here at the chemical-free, pollution-free paddies of farmer Ch'oe Jae-myong.

A low, mountain-side village with approximately 30 households, Ch'oesongmi is located in Umsong gun, Ch'ungchong-buk-do Province. This quiet village was so named because most of the villagers have the last name Ch'oe. It is here that Ch'oe Jae-myong developed his unique method of chemical-free, pond snail agriculture.

"It has been nearly 15 years since I stopped using chemical substances. It was very difficult. I had to pull up weeds by hand and the crops were always vulnerable to damage from blight and insects," explains Ch'oe, who says he started the chemical-free agriculture in 1980 after he collapsed while spraying aphid pesticide.

In the beginning, cultivating 19,800 sq mts of rice fields without the help of chemicals was extremely difficult. Moreover, the reduction in the harvest was a double blow. Approximately two-thirds of the villagers who agreed to stop using chemicals, gave up and went back to using chemicals because many lost their entire crop. Now, only Ch'oe Jae-myon engages in chemical-free agriculture.

Ch'oe discovered the pond snail agriculture by accident about four years ago. He had decided to grow edible snails which had become popular because of their nutritional value. So he started raising snails found at Mt. Namisan. However, he soon discovered that the cost of raising snails was much higher than he had expected.

After much consideration, Ch'oe decided to try raising the snails in his rice fields. Soon after, he discovered that the snails consumed all the weeds and moss in the paddies. It was like discovering a treasure. He then experimented with them for about three years until he succeeded in what he calls snail agriculture technology.

The snail agriculture technology discovered by Ch'oe may be explained, in short, by saying that the snails cultivate the fields. That is, the snails eat the weeds in the rice fields, but not the rice. In addition, the exretions of the snails are an excellent natural fertilizer. Ch'oe says that since he stopped using chemicals, his fields have become more fertile and he can now raise carp, loach, and even freshwater shrimp in his irrigation ditches which provide additional income.

"I literally lived in my fields for the past three years. Now, I am totally confident I can succeed," boasts Ch'oe.

He says water plays an important role in snail agriculture. Special care must be taken to prevent the inflow of polluted water from neighboring fields and even water from the irrigation reservoir, which may become polluted en route. To eliminate risks, Ch'oe always supplies independently pumped water. He also heightened the footpaths bordering neighboring fields to make sure no polluted water permeated even during rainy seasons.

The age at which snails are put in the fields is also important. If mother snails are released in the fields at too early a date there is the risk of snails consuming even the rice. Newborn snails are released in the fields after the transplanting of rice seedlings to the rice seedling fields. The more snails released, the better. Mother snails are placed in the fields about 15 days after transplanting.

Enough water to submerge the snails and to protect them from natural enemies such as mice and white herons should be supplied to the fields at all times.

Mud snails propagate very rapidly. At a temperature from 20 to 30 degrees centigrade, mud snails produce 100 to 500 eggs at a time in two weeks. The exretions of the snails are an excellent natural fertilizer.

Last year, Ch'oe's rice fields looked particularly fresh even though he said he gave more attention to the cultivation of snails and freshwater shrimps than to the rice. With word of his chemical-free rice spreading, he has received so many orders that his next rice crop is already sold out.

Ch'oe's rice is four or five times more expensive than ordinary rice in South Korea because of his natural cultivation technique and the quality. He hopes to reduce his prices within three to four years.

A man with a generous heart, Ch'oe hopes that more farmers will adopt his snail agriculture technology and toward this end, he offer all necessary appliances free of charge. (Courtesy of *Seoul*, Korea's monthly magazine, June 1996.)



Ch'oe displaying a handful of the snails.

Travelogue

Beautiful Istanbul

PART I

Istanbul, once a city that aroused the curiosities of travelers as the center of the world, is a metropolis where Eastern and Western civilizations meet. In the city the contemporary Western way of life exists together with the traditional. Modern buildings and art forms appear side by side with classical Turkish, Byzantine and Roman masterpieces.

Istanbul is the largest city in Turkey, owing largely to its status as the most active trade, import and export, industry, entertainment and education center of the country. The climate of Istanbul is mild and the landscape, with sea and land intermingling in delicate harmony, is beautiful.

The Bosphorus is beautiful all year round, even in the rainy —and occasionally snowy—days of the winter. Spring, with its blossoming trees and different shades of green is short and the month of May marks the beginning of summer.

Summer in Istanbul means rushing to the beaches. There are not many cities in the world that offer as great a choice as does Istanbul in a variety of sea leisure—both the cool waters of the Black Sea and the splendid warm beaches of the Bosphorus as well as the Sea of Marmara are the famous beaches with numerous facilities available to the public. The long autumn, when the skies are clear and the temperatures are moderate, is especially suitable for tourism.

Turkish cuisine is also an experience not to be missed (The Turkish kitchen is one of the three major culinary schools of the world). Fresh fruits and vegetables of unbelievable variety appear on the menus especially in spring, summer and autumn, and fresh fish from the Black Sea, the Bosphorus and the Sea of Marmara is a treat to palates mistreated elsewhere.

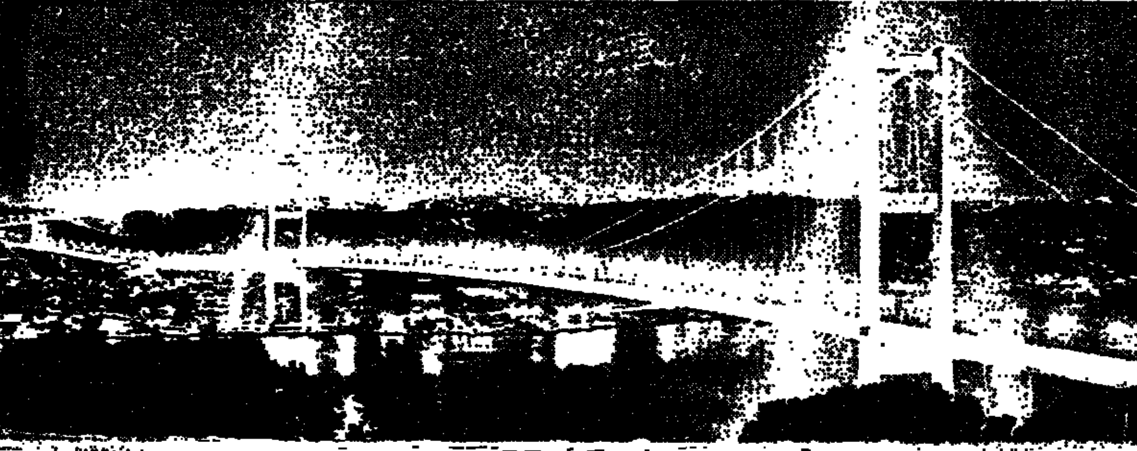


An overview of the city of Istanbul with the Blue Mosque in the background.

Historic Istanbul cannot be separated from the Bosphorus and the Golden Horn, by the shores which it was first founded. There are not many places in the world where wonders of nature and masterpieces of man mix so gracefully, and where the testimony of the past is heard as vividly, as in Istanbul. And the tours of this magnificent city all end with beautiful memories for the visitors who take them.

A short stay in Istanbul will afford the visitor the luxury of seeing the principal spots of interest in the city such as the Haghia Sophia Museum, the Suleymaniye Mosque, the Blue Mosque, the Hippodrome, the Topkapi Palace and the Covered Bazaar. In addition, there are many other tours of prominent Roman, Byzantine and Turkish sites in the city, as well as along the Asian and European shores of the Bosphorus. However, if a general idea is not what is sought and the visitor wishes to see all there is to be seen in Istanbul, more time is necessary. The visitor can explore the Roman city walls, the renowned Kariye Museum, with its late Byzantine frescoes and mosaics, the Dolmabahce Palace on the Bosphorus which is regarded as the richest palace in the world, the Spice Market, the Galata Tower, the Archaeological Museum and the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum.

A visit to Istanbul may provide some travelers with the opportunity of setting foot in Asia for the first time, since there are daily tours either by boat or across the Bosphorus Bridge that joins the two continents. It is while crossing the bridge or during a repose at the Camlica Hill that one gets to see the city in its complete magnificence.



The famous Bosphorus Bridge that connects Europe and Asia.

MOSQUE OF SULTAN AHMET (THE BLUE MOSQUE)

The Mosque of Sultan Ahmet, one of the most revered masterpieces not only of Turkey but of the Islamic World as well, inspires deep admiration in all those who visit it. A striking example of classical Turkish art, this royal mosque is unique in that it is the only mosque originally built with six minarets. The mosque is surrounded by many monuments dating back to the earlier phases of the history of Istanbul, and its fine silhouette is a prominent part of the beautiful skyline of Istanbul as seen from the sea.

Built between 1609 and 1616 by Sultan Ahmet I, the mosque is known throughout the world as "the Blue Mosque" owing to the dominant color of the paint and the ceramic tiles used generously to decorate its interior. The architect deigned and built the mosque as the core of a complex consisting of such functional buildings as a covered bazaar, a Turkish bath, a public kitchen for the poor, a hospital, schools, a caravanserai, and later on the tomb of Sultan Ahmet I. Unfortunately, some of these structures have not survived to this day.

The main entrance to the mosque is on the side facing the ancient Roman hippodrome and opens to the outer court that surrounds a podium upon which the main structure and the inner court are situated. Through the door that opens to the inner court, above the diminutive ablution fountain and the colonnade that surround the main building, one can see the series of cuppolas that rise in a beautiful harmony. The main building has three entrances through which one may walk and be impressed immediately by the colorful decor of handpainted ceramic tiles and stained-glass windows. The interior space of the mosque is a large whole.

As seen from the land side, the Mosque of Sultan Ahmet with its system of cuppolas and semidomes has the appearance of a pyramid rising over a base of horse chestnut and plane trees. The fact that the number of minarets was equal to that of the mosque at the Holy Kaaba at that time caused some criticism from Muslim clergy, and Sultan Ahmet solved the problem by helping raise a seventh minaret for the mosque at Mecca. (To be cont'd.)

CANDID CAMERA

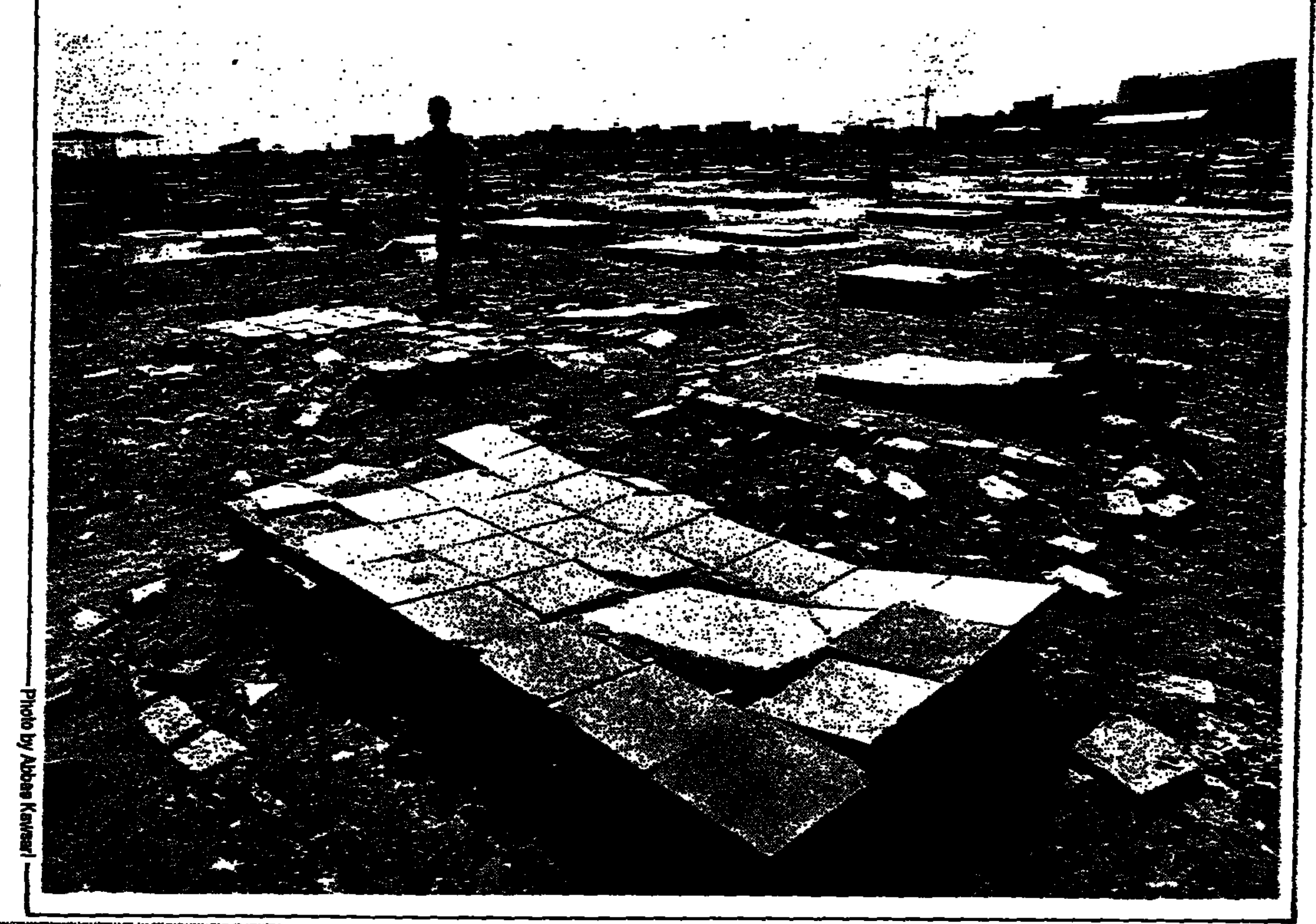


Photo by Abbas Kowsari

1990 - Soviet Communist Party announces it will not heed calls to turn over its enormous wealth accumulated through decades of political monopoly.

1991 - Yugoslav military commanders dispatch troops and tanks towards breakaway republics of Croatia and Slovenia but order troops to hold their fire unless attacked.

1994 - President Cesar Gaviria of Colombia tells thousands of mourners that Andres Escobar, the soccer star shot dead after scoring an own goal in a match against the United States, was the victim of "absurd violence."

1995 - Roman Catholics riot in Northern Ireland, outraged at an early parole from prison of a British paratrooper convicted of killing a Belfast woman.

1996 - The Mexican navy searches for more than 60 fishermen reported missing off the coast of southern Mexico after the third major storm hits the region in less than two weeks.

TOMORROW IN HISTORY

1962 - Algeria becomes independent after 132 years of French rule.

1972 — North and South Korea renounce use of force and agree on principles to unify Korea peacefully without outside interference.

1974 — Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie agrees to military supervision of his government and speedup of democratic reforms.

1987 — Klaus Barvie is convicted in Lyon, France, of crimes against humanity and sentenced to life imprisonment for atrocities he carried out during World War II as local Gestapo chief.

1990 — Kremlin lifts 10-week rail ban on movement of foodstuffs into Lithuania. Ban was enacted in effort to quell republic's independence movement.

1991 — Former Soviet foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze renounces his membership in the Communist Party as he refuses to submit to an internal investigation of his role in founding a democratic opposition movement.

A Tale From Gulistan of Sa'di

On the Manner of Kings

I heard a Padshah giving orders to kill a prisoner. The helpless fellow began to insult the King on that state of despair, with the tongue he had, and to use foul expression according to the saying: "He who takes death for granted, spills out whatever in his heart". When a man is in despair his tongue becomes long, and he is like a vanquished cat assailing a dog. In time of need, when flight is no more possible, the hand grasps the point of sharp sword.

When the King asked what he was saying, a good-natured vizier replied: "My lord, he says, 'Those who bridle their anger and forgive men; for Allah loveth the beneficent.'"

The King, moved with pity, forbore taking his life; but another vizier, the antagonist of the former, said: "Men of our rank ought to speak nothing but the truth in the presence of Padshah. This fellow has insulted the King and spoke unbecomingly."

The King, being displeased with these words, said: "That lie was more acceptable for me than the truth thou has uttered, because the former proceeded from a conciliatory disposition, and the latter from malignity ; and wise men have said, 'a white lie resulting in conciliation is better than a truth producing trouble.'"

He whom the Shah follows in what he says it is a pity if he speaks anything but what is good.

The inscription upon the portico of the hall of Fereidun says:

O brother ! the world remains with no one ;
Bind thy heart to the Creator, to Him only.
Rely not upon material possessions and this world,
Because it has cherished many like thee and slain them.

When the pure soul is about to depart,
What boots it if one dies on a throne or on the ground?

GRAFFITI

I MISSED MY APPOINTMENT AT THE SLEEP DISORDER CLINIC BECAUSE I OVERSLEPT





A MUSICAL NOTE



A theme card to give to a musical friend. The treble clefs are buttons. Cut red glossy card 22 by 15cm (8½ by 6in). Score and fold 11cm (4¼in). Draw a square 5.5 by 7.5cm (2¼ by 3in) on white paper. Rule two staves — groups of five lines 3mm (⅛in) apart — using a fine black felt-tipped pen. Cut out the square.



Centre the square of music paper on card so that you have an equal margin on three sides. Visually, it is better to have a larger margin at base of card. Mark corners of music lightly on card and stick down using spray glue. Place opened card on a piece of felt and pierce two holes for the two buttons using dividers or a thick needle.

From the back sew on buttons through the holes you have pierced, then knot the thread and trim. Finish knots with a dab of glue.



